

Inflation rate down to 13% a month ahead of target

Single-figure inflation is in sight, with the Government reaching its inflation target for this year a month early and a further fall expected in January. Mr Charles Williams, Price Commission chairman, said yesterday that less frequent increases were likely in future, some as much as 12 months apart. (Business News, page 17)

Earnings outlook still the uncertain factor

By David Blake
The Government has met its target for bringing down inflation this year a month ahead of schedule, and is well on track for single-figure inflation by the spring. The retail price index rose by only half a point, in November to stand at 187.4, 13 per cent above its level of November last year, according to figures released by the Department of Employment yesterday.

November saw the fifth consecutive drop in the annual inflation rate from its high point of 17.7 per cent in May. In October the annual rate was 14.1 per cent.

A further decline is expected in December, which should confirm that the Government has succeeded in reducing the annual rate to 13 per cent by the last quarter—its stated goal.

The fall in the underlying rate of inflation in recent months has been even more dramatic, going from a high point of 20 per cent in May to 8.7 per cent in November. This is measured by examining changes in prices of all items except seasonal foods over the past six months and then converting the figures to an annualized rate.

November is the second month in which inflation, as gauged by this test, has been within single figures.

Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, pointed out that the annual figures failed to record the success which the Government has had in slowing price rises because they are influenced by big increases early in the year caused by the pound's fall in 1976.

Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, used the occasion to give credit for the success of the Government's policy and to call for perseverance with them.

Mr Booth said that the Government's policy was to keep inflation within the guidelines.

Mr John Methven, director-

Bakers' ban threatens Christmas bread

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

An overtime ban by bakery workers in England and Wales will begin tomorrow, unless weekend peace efforts produce a settlement. The producers say it will cut supplies by a quarter.

The action results from a national ballot by the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers' Union among its 57,000 members over a pay offer that would, according to the employers, increase average earnings by slightly more than a tenth. The union said the offer was rejected by two to one.

The Federation of Bakers, whose members include the three main producers, Rank Hovis McDougall, Spillers, French, and Allied Bakeries, said that next week overtime would have to be used to cope with the Christmas demand.

The federation's members own 230 bakeries, producing more than seven tenths of all bread. Smaller, private bakeries, where the union has no members, will escape the ban.

The employers say the industry is in a serious financial state and is still recovering from the last bakery workers' strike, less than three months ago. The process takes 0.01p profit on each standard loaf.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service apparently made repeated telephone calls to the union's headquarters in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, while the 18-member national executive was meeting yesterday, but failed to set a reply. It has offered to meet either party to the dispute this weekend.

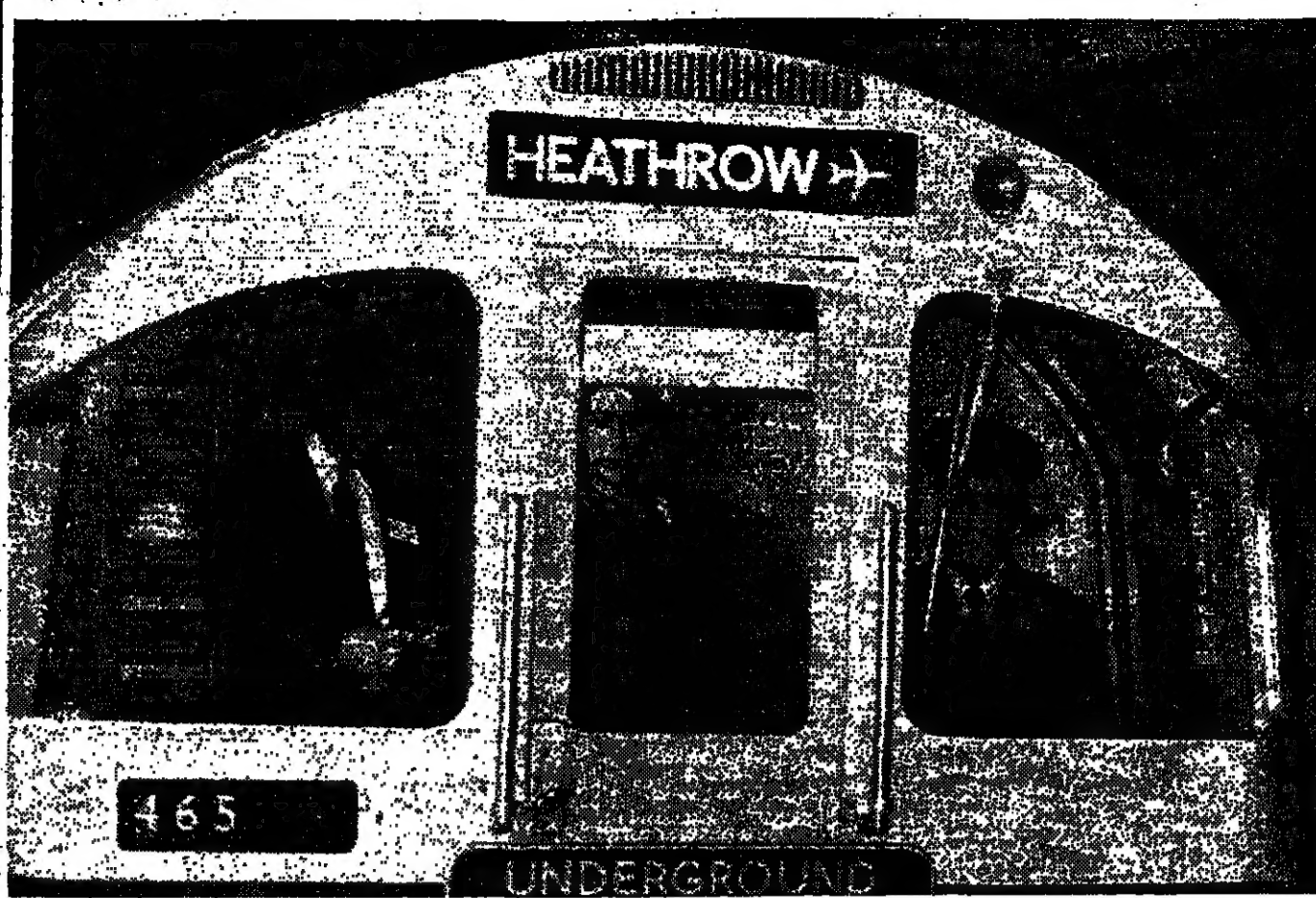
The workers' ballot produced a big majority in favour of an overtime ban rather than a strike. Most bakery workers do overtime to bridge a gap between shifts.

The union seeks consolidation of increases received under phases one and two of the pay policy (£8.50 in most cases) so that they would count for overtime and bonus payments, a 10 per cent rise and an extra three days' holiday. It says that the employers' offer is worth 6 per cent on basic rates.

The union's members produce four fifths of all bread in England and Wales. If the ban is imposed, Christmas supplies will be insufficient. The employers say that the union is not following agreed bargaining procedures.

Mr David Duke-Evans, director of the Federation of Bakers, said the action might force producers to ration bread and close bakeries. Profit margins, where they existed, were low.

The employers say that their offer gives increases of from 6 per cent to more than 15 per cent on weekly earnings, and that to grant the union's claim would breach government guidelines.



The Queen goes by Tube: The new £30m Tube extension to Heathrow may be a gleaming technological miracle, but yesterday at least it did not seem the best all-round buy for some trunk-laden, travel-weary air passengers (David Nicholson-Lord writes).

The Queen officially opened the extension and inspected, among other marvels of the CLC, the travelling mile-and-a-half of new track between Harro Cross and Heathrow Central stations in the motorway's cab (above).

She recalled the first occasion she had travelled by Tube, in 1939, and contrasted it with her opening of the Victoria Line eight years ago. The ticket clerk saw nothing wrong with any expense in those days, unlike the automatic ticket machine at Victoria, which seemed very reluctant to take the responsibility of issuing me with a ticket, she said.

Because of a lift engineers' dispute, which ended on Monday, only two of the six escalators were working in time for the opening, despite concentrated efforts by London Transport staff. Some two-and-a-half hours after the inauguration, the first public train left Wood Green station in north London at two o'clock. By mid-afternoon curiosity seekers were thronging the shining halls and moving walkways of the new station and seller of commemorative stationery, at 50p an item, were doing a roaring trade.

The extension makes Heathrow the first large international airport directly linked into the Underground system of a great capital city. At 80p for a single journey between central London and the airport, which takes 47 minutes, the result has been proclaimed a great benefit in cost, time and tempo.

But journeys to and from Heathrow by other methods of transport yesterday showed a slightly different picture. If other, more personal factors such as comfort, round-the-clock availability, and even scenic value, a point of importance for tourists if not businessmen, are taken into account, the new Tube line performs relatively poorly.

Continued on page 2, col 5

Mr Carter and Mr Begin may join President Sadat in Cairo summit

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Dec 16

President Carter and Mr Begin had a two-hour meeting in the White House this morning. Various sources strongly suggest that the Israeli Prime Minister has proposed that there should be a summit meeting between himself, President Sadat and Mr Carter shortly after Christmas to open substantive negotiations.

Mr Sadat has hinted, on American television, that the idea has already been put to him, and it is suggested that he will agree to the "Israel peace plan" shown to Mr Carter this morning seemed to him a basis for negotiations.

Reports from Cairo tonight said Mr Carter had conferred with President Sadat by telephone after seeing Mr Begin.

Mr Carter is passing through the Middle East on his way to and from India at the new year and it would be entirely possible for him to go to Cairo for a summit. That might be a suitable moment for bringing King Hussein of Jordan into the process.

Mr Begin is staying at Blair House, the guest house at the White House, and he walked across the road to the White House at 8 am.

The first hour's discussions were this-4-4-4. The two men were then joined by officials for a second hour. One of them

was Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State.

When Mr Begin returned to Blair House, he told reporters: "We discussed the most important problems concerning the peace-making process in the Middle East. He had lunch with congressional leaders."

Afterwards Israeli spokesmen would say only that the talks were held in "an extremely good atmosphere", and that they were concerned with two issues, the "Palestinian Arabs" (Mr Begin's preferred terminology) and Sinai. Presumably Mr Begin told Mr Carter what territorial concessions Israel would make to Egypt.

The White House statement said: "The Prime Minister outlined proposals concerning future relations between Egypt

and Israel and a process for resolving the issue of Palestinian Arabs. Obviously, a particular focus was on the direct talks which have commenced between Egypt and Israel. All aspects of the current Middle East situation were discussed in the context of the search for a comprehensive peace."

Mr Begin leaves for Israel on Sunday evening, stopping on the way in London, where he will see Mr Callaghan. Edward Mortimer writes from Cairo: The Cairo conference has adjourned for the three days covering the Muslim, Jewish and Christian holidays.

The Egyptians would not have objected to working on Friday, and both Mr Alfred Atherton of the United States and General Silas of the United Nations would have been happy to work on Sunday had there been work to be done.

But neither Israelis nor Egyptians are in a hurry to anticipate the results of Mr Begin's visit to Washington. Moreover the delegates are finding it easier to make progress in small, informal meetings than in the full sessions of the conference.

Both sides have agreed to take Security Council Resolution 242 as a basis, but each side has prepared its own working paper listing what it considers to be the essential elements of a just and lasting peace.

Cyprus kidnappers extend deadline

Nicosia, Dec 16—The Cyprus authorities have made contact with the kidnappers of the 21-year-old son of President Kyprianou and are trying to obtain his release, a senior Government official announced here today.

He said the intermediary was a former EOKA-B leader, but all he had been able to achieve so far was to get the kidnappers to extend by 48 hours their deadline for killing Second-Lieutenant Achilles Kyprianou if all political prisoners are not unseated.

The deadline is now 8 pm (GMT) tomorrow.

Tonight, Mr George Tombar, the Communications Minister, said: "We know who the kidnappers are, and they know that we know them." He did not elaborate.

Mr Glarios Cleides, leader of the Democratic Rally Party, said today he was withdrawing from the February presidential election because of the kid-

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Three held in Holden murder case

Cairo, Dec 16—Three young Arabs, a girl and two men, have been arrested in connection with the murder of Mr David Holden, Chief Foreign Correspondent of *The Sunday Times*, according to the newspaper *Al-Ahram*.

Police sources said political motives for the murder of Mr Holden, who was 53, had not been ruled out.

The names or nationalities of the three have not been given. *Al-Ahram* said they were arrested in a flat at Manshiya, a Cairo district, at midnight last night.

Mr Holden arrived here by air from Amman on the evening of December 5 and his body was found the next morning on the fringe of the desert at Nasr City, a Cairo suburb. He had been shot at the back with a bullet which pierced the heart.

Al-Ahram said Mr Holden's suitcase, his portable typewriter and his notebook had been found by a police patrol in a side street in Dokki, near here. His passport was still missing. The car was towed to Dokki police station and experts were called to take fingerprints and samples of bloodstains from it.

The police are looking for another car in connection with the incident. *Al-Ahram* said. State security police had scrutinized Mr Holden's papers and arrested a number of suspects. The newspaper did not say how many or whether they included the three Arabs.

Mr Holden's body, identified last Saturday, was flown to Britain yesterday.

Commenting on the *Al-Ahram* report, an interior Ministry official told reporters the three people taken into custody could not be described as suspects in the murder of Mr Holden. He said the two men and the girl were merely helping inquiries.

The official said one of the two men owned the car in which Mr Holden's belongings were found. The owner had reported the car had been stolen before Mr Holden arrived in Cairo.

The official said that until the killer or killers were found, all inquiries would be considered political, robbery or otherwise. He declined to give details of the three people held by the police. —Reuters.

84 men saved from ocean inferno as two tankers crash

A helicopter and rescue ships saved 84 crewmen when the 330,000-ton supertanker collided and caught fire 20 miles off the South African coast near Port Elizabeth. Both ships, still burning, remained afloat, drifting east three miles apart. Anti-pollution vessels headed for the area after reports of a growing oil slick, which threatened holiday resort beaches. With both ships valued at £15m, it could prove the costliest maritime disaster so far.

New York aid plea
New York banks have asked Congress to support an extension of the federal Government's loan programme for the city, which is due to end next summer. Their chairman told the Senate banking committee that New York will need aid for several years if it is to overcome its financial difficulties.

Mortgages 'blocked'
Council planning rigidity often prevented mortgages being advanced to would-be home owners, Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, said at a London conference: "If a council scheduled an area for redevelopment at some unspecified time that 'blocked' use of building society funds."

Mr van Agt's uphill task
Mr van Agt's new Dutch Government, a coalition of most of his Christian Democrats with the Liberals, is assured of only 69 votes in the 150-seat Parliament. Since the coalition programme is vaguely defined, it will be up to ministers to offer broadly acceptable measures.

Case disturbs judge
After jailing a farmworker at Bodmin Crown Court, for life for the murder of his backward son, Mr Justice Willis said he was gravely disturbed by what he had heard about a lack of supervision for the boy, and called for a Government inquiry.

Leader page, 13
Letters: On the Unification Church, from Mr H. A. C. Masters, and others; on the LTB-Lab pact, from Mr Richard Lamb.

Leading articles: Argentina: Pay in nationalized industries; Cyprus: Features, pages 7-12. George Hutchinson looks at the EEC elections vote and its consequences: Vanora Leigh on why the pluri-state bridge has taken to farming; Michael Horsey on getting Europeans to drink more pints.

Home News: European News: 4-5. Church: 4-5. Appointments: 4-5. Art: 4-5. Crossword: 4-5. Bridge: 10. Engagements: 10.

Business: 4-5. Chess: 4-5. Court: 4-5. Crossword: 4-5. Engagements: 10.

17-21: Features: 7-12. Science: 11. Law Report: 14. Letters: 14. Obituary: 14. Parliament: 14.

Blow for guerrillas in Mozambique

Much of the leadership of the guerrilla force belonging to Mr Robert Mugabe's wing of the Patriotic Front was eliminated in Rhodesia's big raid into Mozambique last month. General Peter Walls, the Rhodesian commander of combined operations, said. He made it plain that the Rhodesian forces would carry out further raids if necessary but emphasized that Rhodesia had no quarrel with the local Mozambican population.

Nurse visited in jail
Foreign reporters were allowed to visit the woman's prison in Bangkok where Miss Rita Nightingale, a British nurse, is serving her 20-year jail sentence for attempted drug smuggling. The reporters found the prison congenial. Miss Nightingale was crying when she spoke to them about her appeal.

Sponsorship warning
A report gives a warning that if £7m in sports sponsorship was suddenly removed, that could seriously affect many sports, especially the more expensive ones. It also says that as more companies study what they get for their money the arts could benefit.

Minister's future in doubt
Herr Georg Leber, the West German Defence Minister, faces an increasingly uncertain political future after a second blow followed Monday's espionage scandal. Criticism by the Constitutional Court over the number of conscientious objectors appeared to erode his position.

Handicapped by wine: A mentally handicapped boy of 12 won the right to receive a disability allowance after a 15-month campaign by his parents.

Firemen's benefits: The Department of Health and Social Security stood by a circular detailing restrictions on benefits for families of striking firemen.

589 New York return: A travel agency is offering return air fares in New York for £89 starting next year.

Paris: President Giscard entered the French election campaign with a speech in the Norman countryside appealing for farmers' support.

Arts, page 9
William Mann reviews *Maria Suarda* at Covent Garden with Joan Sutherland; Alan Coren on *The Big Time*; Irving Wardle and Ned Challenor on entertainments for children at Christmas.

Obituary, page 14
Mr Alexander Galich; General Wilfred Kitching. Sport, pages 15 and 16. Show jumping: Victory for Caroline Bradley at Olympia; Rugby Union: England teams to visit new places in Europe next year; Football: Norman Fox looks at the

Cooperman by any other name

From Michael Lepperson
New York, Dec 16

A judge in the New York state Supreme Court has, after three years of litigation, allowed the former Mrs Ellen Cooperman to call herself Ellen Cooperman. His ruling reversed that of a lower court last year when a judge called the proposed new name insane and nonsensical.

In 1974 Mrs Cooperman (as she then was) filed for divorce, divorced Mr Norman Cooperman and decided to alter her surname on the grounds that the old one was sexist. She began legal moves, normally a formality, to have the petition rejected last year.

In granting her new petition yesterday, Justice Leon Lazer said that she had a right in law to adopt a name of her own choosing, so long as it would not lead to fraud, evasion or to misleading others. There was no reason to think it would do any of those things.

Mrs Cooperman said that last year's rejection of her petition provoked much sympathy from people who would not normally be regarded as keen supporters of women's liberation. Her 10-year-old son Brian would keep the name Cooperman, she added, because he was male and thus not uncomfortable with it.

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Mrs Bhutto hurt in Test riot

From Our Own Correspondent
Lahore, Dec 16

Mrs Nurat Bhutto, wife of Mr Bhutto, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan and chairman of the People's Party, was detained in hospital here with a head wound inflicted by a policeman's stick when violence flared at the first Test match between England and Pakistan.

Three stitches were inserted in the wound. Mrs Bhutto was at the centre of the disturbance, which caused play to be suspended for an hour. Police used tear gas to break up fighting between political opponents.

England at the time had scored 85 for two wickets in reply to Pakistan's 407 for nine declared. The trouble raised doubts as to whether the tour could continue.

John Woodcock, page 15

Third 'arson' attack on Eton college within a month

From Our Correspondent
Windsor

Police were searching last night for someone who is believed to have caused more than £140,000 worth of fire damage at Eton College.

In the latest attack yesterday, the third within a month, classrooms and an office were burnt out causing more than £40,000 worth of damage. The fire raser avoided special fire security patrols.

"I am convinced this is arson", Mr Michael McCrum, the Head Master, said. "Over the past two years we have found signs of a number of attempts to start fires at the school. Previously we have

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HOME NEWS

Government inquiry called for by judge after man is sentenced for murdering backward young son

After jailing Thomas Menhennott, a farmer, for life for the murder of his backward son, Stephen, aged 19, Mr Justice Wills, yesterday called for a government inquiry into the case.

He said he was gravely disturbed by what he had heard about the lack of supervision for the young man, and added: "I propose to communicate with the responsible government department in this case. It seems to me that it is a matter of public concern."

He spoke after Mr Menhennott, aged 53, of Holy Vale, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, was found guilty of murdering his son.

The jury of 10 men and two women took almost four hours to reach their verdict, which was by a majority.

The jury were discharged from returning verdicts on four counts of causing grievous bodily harm, but Mr Menhennott was jailed for five years, to run concurrently, for attempting to prevent an inquest being held by burying his son's body in a field near his home.

The court was told that the son had spent some years in local authority homes and hospitals.

After Mr Menhennott had left the dock, the judge said: "There is a large question mark which has overhung this case for a long time, which I think must have been and still is exercising the minds of many members of the public and is exercising mine."

"And that is how it came about that with the single horrible exception of Mr Davies (the island's dentist), who was obviously exceedingly worried about the condition from which this boy was suffering in the late autumn of 1975, that community in three years seems to have done nothing to help that boy, who was obviously in fear of his father."

The boy must, from time to time, have been showing signs of mental illness in one type or another. He thought it would have been obvious to anyone living in St Mary's that the boy was being ill-treated.

"That is a matter which affects the members of that small community," the judge continued, "but that is another matter."

World's top circus artists show their paces

By Alan Hamilton

Sergeant-Major Philip Asley, late of the 15th Dragoons, knew a thing or two about show business. In 1768 he roped off a ring in a field near what is now Waterloo station, London, performed a few tricks of horsemanship, and invented the modern circus, even laying down its standard ring diameter of 42 feet.

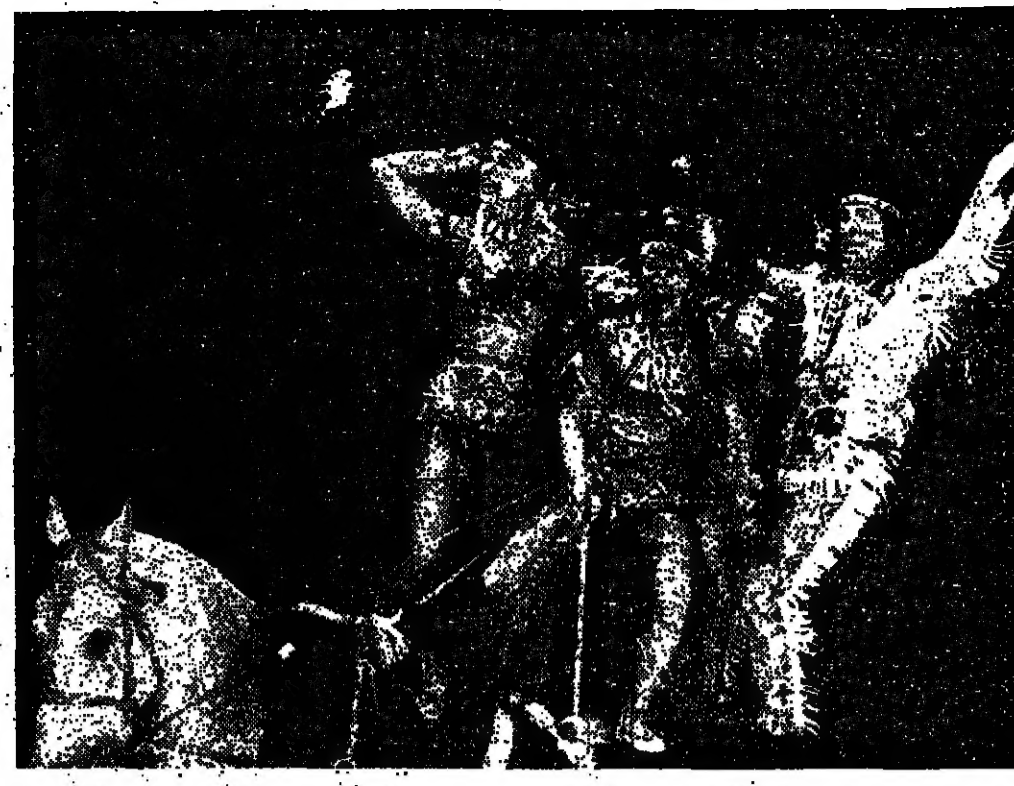
Nothing basic has changed for the 177th Circus World Championships, except that they have travelled five stops down the Northern Line to Clapham Common. There this week a select company of the world's leading horsemen, tightrope walkers, trapeze artists, jugglers and strong men, have been excellent in their display before a panel of seasoned judges.

Acts are judged on content and presentation, performers being required to demonstrate that they are able to accomplish advanced and heart-stopping feats, but not with such ease or nonchalance that their danger or difficulty is hidden.

Manfred Dovel, last year's world champion on the high wire, had a few shaky moments this week: 60 feet above the ring, and Ivan Karl, the diminutive British contender for the strong man title, was knocked right off his perch by two men with sledgehammers pounding a steel plate on his chest.

Some unlikely records are held by this year's contenders. Greg Friel, of the Rocksmith Filers trapeze troupe, last year became the first man to throw a three-and-a-half somersault in England.

The Flying Genies are one of the few trapeze troupes to have turned four somersaults between leaving one bar and being caught on another. Terry Lemus, of the Flying Terrells, gained an entry in the Guinness Book of Records after she had completed 1,000 triple somersaults in mid-air.



The Mohawk trick riders competing in a championship qualifying round.

Travel firm offer £89 air return to New York

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Return flights from London to New York for £89 are to be sold next year by Airplan, a division of the south London company, Letchford Tours and Travel.

The fares will be available on flights leaving London on dates in April, May, June, September and October, with return flights on dates in February and March 1978.

Mr George Clay, managing director of Airplan, said that the fare and one for £150 return to Los Angeles would suit retired people who wished to visit their families in North America.

From next year they could spend between five and 12 months with relatives for no more than the cost of an eight-day holiday in Majorca.

Airplan customers will travel on Laker Airways' wide-bodied DC10 airliners or Boeing 707s. Laker Air Travel recently announced similar fares to New York and Los Angeles for travellers prepared to stay at their destinations for long periods.

Jetset, claiming to be the leading British travel operator across the North Atlantic, has also announced a return "package" deal from London to New York for £179, including six nights' hotel accommodation.

Minister calls for simpler benefits scheme

The supplementary benefit system is too complicated for socialists to understand, Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday. He called for the system to be simplified, the appeals system to be improved, and people to be given clearer explanations of their rights.

He said in Oxford that more than 30,000 staff were used in administering the scheme.

"Ministers have got to get away from the idea that they and their civil servants already have all the facts and opinions they need to take the right decisions, and that anyone who disagrees is either ill-informed or malicious," he said.

"But if you permit the work, those at the other end of the telescope must adjust their focus too; they must face up to the very real financial and other practical difficulties ministers have to deal with."

Not better off: Allegations that many people were better off receiving social security benefits than in work were "grossly misleading", Mr Orme, Minister for Social Security, told the Scottish TUC in Glasgow yesterday.

Ordnance Survey maps to cost more

By a Staff Reporter

The Ordnance Survey has announced the first changes in the price of its products for two years, to take effect today. There are increases of up to 30 per cent for most small-scale maps, but some prices are reduced.

Prices changes for large-scale maps and services for professional users have been linked to the introduction of a new updating service and have been restructured to reflect more closely the costs of different forms of information and to remove anomalies. As a result, some prices in that range of products are down.

The most popular type of small-scale map, the 1:50,000 series, goes up by 22 per cent, from £1.15 to £1.40 for the folded version. Present stocks will be sold at the old prices.

Charges for copyright licences will be increased by 30 per cent at the dates from which the licences run, starting in January. There will be a 15 per cent increase in the basic royalty rate for publishers, also starting in January.

The changes have been made after Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, stated earlier this year that the Ordnance Survey should gradually increase the proportion of costs recovered through prices and charges.

Lord Byers 'fully supports' Mr Steel over the pact

By Our Political Editor

Lord Byers, leader of the Liberal peers, yesterday expressed his full support for Mr David Steel, the party leader, in his pursuit of the parliamentary pact with the Government. He denied a report in *The Times* yesterday that from his being non-committal at a Liberal peers' meeting, it must be assumed that he was opposed to the Commons members concluding the pact.

Lord Byers asserted that he made it clear on a number of occasions in the past few days that he fully supported Mr Steel.

Councils cut discretionary awards for students

By Our Education Correspondent

Local authorities have been cutting back on discretionary awards for students in further education, the provisional results of a government survey show.

Five thousand more full value discretionary awards would have been made this year if the proportion of students receiving them had been maintained at the same level as two years ago.

M. Onkes, Minister of State for Education and Science, is understood to be "shocked and appalled" by the results of the survey of discretionary awards made by local education authorities in England and Wales between 1975-76 and 1977-78.

The survey showed that the number of full value discretionary awards remained constant at 49,000 over the two-year period. If, however, they had been increased to keep pace with the growth of the 16-19 years group, 5,000 more awards would have been given this year. Two thousand fewer awards were made this year.

Total expenditure for full value discretionary awards in the present academic year is estimated at £58m, compared with £37m in 1975-76. Spending this year on mandatory awards, 90 per cent of which is met directly by central government, is expected to total £426m.

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has said that the Government would seek powers in an education Bill to permit the Secretary of State to extend mandatory grants to courses that at present attract only awards at the discretion of the local authority.

Compassion led son to kill mother aged 88

The compassion of Alfred Halligan, aged 57, for his aged and suffering mother drove him to take her life, Mr Justice Melford Stevenson was told at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. After witnessing her deteriorating health and increasing pain and misery, he forced a pair of scissors into her temple.

Mr Halligan, of Heveningham Road, Bexleyheath, was placed on probation for two years after pleading not guilty to murder but guilty to the manslaughter of his mother, Mary Halligan, aged 88, on the ground of diminished responsibility.

Tory returned in GLC by-election

Hayes and Harlington returned a Conservative to the Greater London Council in a by-election on Thursday. The majority was 87 in a 23.8 per cent poll. The GLC constituency is the same as the parliamentary constituency, which returned a Labour MP, Mr Neville Sandelson, at the last general election.

Voting on Thursday was: Mr Andrew Hall (C), 6,443; Mr Peter House (Lab), 6,055; Mr Peter House (Nat), 585; Mr Alan Rowland (Lib), 571.

General election: Mr N. D. Sandelson (Lab), 10,871; Mr C. Lyon (Lib), 6,256; Mr J. S. Fairhurst (Nat), 1,189. Lab majority, 4,612.

Island railway

Approval in principle of a plan for the revival of the railway on Alderney, the only surviving standard gauge railway in the Channel Islands, was given at a meeting of the States of Alderney yesterday.

Body needed for complaints about tribunals

Absence of adequate means of handling complaints of injustice by tribunals is worrying the Council on Tribunals, which supervises and monitors the way they are run.

The council's annual report said yesterday that it lacked statutory authority to conduct effective negotiations. The Lord Chancellor held out no great hope of a satisfactory solution but would think again if complaints increased.

The Annual Report of the Council on Tribunals, House of Commons Paper 108 (Stationery Office, 85p).

'Northern Echo' back after dispute

From John Chatteris
Darlington

The *Northern Echo*, published at Darlington again yesterday after 116 issues had been lost because of the dispute over a journalists' closed shop, contained a leading article saying that most newspapers saw danger in allowing a single organization to "govern all editorial staff".

The newspaper, claimed to be the biggest selling provincial daily in England and Wales, was produced by four executives and a district reporter, a member of the Institute of Journalists. The 106 journalists employed by

The *Northern Echo* and the *Evening Despatch*, which circulates over a smaller area, have been able to resume production because the printers, who had supported the journalists' work on Thursday, returned to work on Friday. The NUJ members began their original stoppage in June. Weekly papers owned by the group will resume publication next week, also with skeleton staffs of 103 or non-union journalists.

The management says that it cannot improve on a "final offer" made to the NUJ members earlier this week (which was rejected) without transgressing the Government's pay policy guidelines.

Q. Who has 4 hotels in the world's top*30?

(Holders of the coveted Diploma of European Excellence)

A. Trust Houses Forte!

George V, Paris (Gen. Manager, André Sonier)
Plaza Athénée, Paris (Gen. Manager, Paul Bougenaux)
The Pierre, New York (Gen. Manager, Henri Manassero)
and now...
The Hyde Park, London
(Gen. Manager, Willy Bauer)



*The Diploma of European Excellence is awarded only to top international hotels by the Comité de l'Excellence Européenne.

HOME NEWS

Arts likely to gain as sponsors seek alternative to sport

By Kenneth Gosling
The sudden removal of sports sponsorship by the tobacco companies, estimated at £7m a year, could have serious implications for many sports and would create particular difficulties for the most expensive events.

That warning is given in an Economist Intelligence Unit report on sponsorship. It mentions concern that sponsorship may increase professionalism, harming sport for leisure or health.

It predicts that as more companies study what they get for their money, the arts are likely to be a growing area, particularly with companies that seek a less extravagant alternative to sports.

The growth of sponsorship, it says, "is likely to be leaner than in the halcyon days of the 1960s. Of the past five years, three have seen sponsorship struggling under economic pressures, yet expenditure has grown to some £30m."

That total could grow to some £45m over the next five years, the report says, adding "if the activities of Mr Packer should cause cricket sponsorship on this side of the globe to take on a new vitality, that figure might move an underestimate, while if the tobacco companies' money were to be withdrawn abruptly, or the banking and insurance sector were to be nationalized, a downward adjustment in the

estimate would be necessary."

In the arts, sponsorship for this year was at least £1m and growing more quickly than in past years.

Tobacco companies, accounting for between a quarter and a third of known sponsorship expenditure, had discovered that spending money on sport had brought them almost as much praise as praise; Rothmans, for example, was winning down nearly all activities in that area.

Others had found that while they tended to be hated for reaching nine or ten million coverage of their sponsored events, there was no similar criticism when 800,000 people, including many children, travelled to the Pompeii exhibition, which Imperial Tobacco's sponsorship had made possible.

If the tobacco companies withdrew others were able or willing to sponsor sport on the same scale. The report says the Government would be unlikely to make good any significant part of the estimated £7m a year that came from the tobacco companies.

Sponsorship, EIU Special Report No 41 (Economist Intelligence Unit Ltd, Spencer House, 27 St James's Place, London, SW1A 1NT, £25).

Lead shot poisoning mute swans

By a Staff Reporter

Lead poisoning in swans on some of Britain's most heavily fished waters has been attributed to lead weights discarded by careless anglers. Mr Alan Hunt, of the veterinary investigation centre at Loughborough, Leicestershire, says that investigation of 207 dead mute swans up to last August showed that 107 died from lead poisoning after they had swallowed lead shot used to weight lines.

Mr Hunt, writing in the bulletin of the British Trust for Ornithology, states that the condition has been reported most often from heavily fished stretches of the Northamptonshire Trent and the Warwickshire Avon. Cases had also occurred on the river Soar in Leicestershire, the rivers Slea and Witham in Lincolnshire, on many lakes and gravel pits throughout the Midlands and on a fishing lake in Essex.

The bulletin says that while mute swans can suffer from spectacular pollution from oil spills, pollution through lead shot is a more insidious, far longer lasting and even more unpleasant.

PCs cleared of beating prisoner

Two policemen, Gary Butler and John Murphy, were acquitted at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday of beating up a newly arrested prisoner.

The officers, charged with using violence, PC Butler, aged 25, of Oakfield Road, Bucknall, Nottingham, and PC Murphy, aged 34, of Ingram Road, Bulwell, Nottingham, had both pleaded not guilty to assault causing bodily harm.

14 pc bus fares rise

The Trent Bus Company, which operates throughout the East Midlands, has been given permission to raise fares by 14 per cent. Some passengers will have to pay an extra 30p a trip. Trent is still likely to make a £1m loss next year unless costs are cut.

Six-day speaking analysis of Scotland Bill debate

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

An analysis of MPs' participation in the first six days of the committee stage of the Scotland Bill has been compiled by research assistants on behalf of Mr Maurice Macmillan, Conservative MP for Farnham.

Mr Macmillan said that the number of Labour backbenchers attending the debates had been "derisory", indicating their true dislike of the measure. More than a third of the contributions from the Labour benches had come from committed anti-devolutionists, with Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for West Lothian, the most prolific contributor, with 23 speeches and 69 interventions.

The Conservative support for the debates, with only 38 MPs taking part, can scarcely be described as enthusiastic. The somewhat better attendance on the Tory side can be accounted for largely by the fact that most of the amendments being debated came from opposition benches.

The only party to have given its all with a total speaking contribution was the Scottish National Party.

The following numbers of speeches (with simple interventions in parentheses) included points of order: (44); L. 10 (29); SNP, 13 (35); Scot. Lab, 4 (10); and U. 8 (5).

Those party contributions represented as percentages of the total committee stage debate were: C. 50.7; Lab, 34.2; L. 4.3; SNP, 5.6; Scot. Lab, 1.7; U. 3.5.

The number of speakers from each party, represented as percentages of their total Commons strength, were:

WEST EUROPE

Second blow to future of minister in Bonn

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Dec 16

The political future of Herr Georg Leber, the Defence Minister, looked increasingly uncertain today after a second blow in the wake of Monday's espionage scandal.

The Constitutional Court implicitly criticised the Social Democrat-Free Democrat Government yesterday by temporarily suspending one of its most important and controversial innovations: the right of conscripts to choose freely between military service and social service.

The court pointed out that by December 1 this year there were 130,000 suspended conscripts objecting to do social service while the ministry had only 11,000 vacancies.

The court's action, coming on top of the disclosure that photographs of more than 1,000 top secret ministry documents had apparently been passed to East Germany, was seen by several newspapers as sealing Herr Leber's fate. Some even began to speculate on a successor.

Herr Leber discussed the court's ruling and the espionage scandal with Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor, last night, but a government spokesman denied today that they had talked about his resignation. A Defence Ministry spokesman said today there was no basis to reports that the minister was about to resign.

The right-wing Die Welt claimed today Herr Schmidt was unwilling to let Herr Leber resign before a Cabinet reshuffle which, it said, he planned to make early next year.

It speculated that the supposed reshuffle would be announced in an important speech by the Chancellor, in which domestic, foreign and economic policy which Herr Schmidt has announced that he will make on January 19.

Herr Leber is regarded as a good defence minister and is undoubtedly popular with the armed forces. But there have been charges that he has become increasingly inaccessible and out of touch with the affairs of his ministry.

Leber's own admission that he had not read the ministry's assessment of the damage done by the alleged spies and only learned of its magnitude through the press.

The parliamentary defence committee has begun investigating the affair and is expected to call witnesses, including Dr Kurt Rehnann, the federal prosecutor, who is heading legal investigations, early next year.

The Pope sends Mgr Capucci to S America

Rome, Dec 16.—The Pope ordered a roving assignment in Latin America today for Mgr Hilario Capucci, the Greek Catholic Archbishop of Jerusalem, to head a team of missionaries to spend three years in an Israeli settlement.

The Vatican announced that Mgr Capucci would be "visiting Greek Catholic Melchite communities in several countries of Latin America"—UPI.

Director held for 'insult' to army in play

Madrid, Dec 16.—A well-known Spanish theatre director has been arrested on Army orders for staging a play, La Torna, said to contain insults against the armed forces, Cifra, the Spanish news agency, said today.

Señor Albert Bodelle, director and chief of the Catalan theatre group Els Joglars (The Players), is being held in a Barcelona prison after questioning by a military judge.

Several small bombs exploded inside one of Madrid's biggest department stores after a crowd had gathered to see a furniture display, police said. A guerrilla movement fighting for the independence of the Canary Islands claimed responsibility.—UPI, AP and Reuters.

Snow blocks passes

Berne, Dec 16.—Snow has blocked 12 Alpine passes and two in the Jura mountains.

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Dec 16

President Giscard d'Estaing appealed today from the heart of the Norman countryside for the support of a "deep, rural France" in his attempt to "lead the country to justice and progress". He was speaking to an enthusiastic audience of several thousand people in a huge tent set up for the purpose in the sports ground of the small township of Vassy, near Vire.

The president's speech was a prelude to his reentry into the domestic political scene in the election campaign, after a deliberate abstention of many months.

But he stopped short of descending into the political arena, and remained aloof from party controversies, and conflicts. His speech was largely devoted to the present and future of agriculture.

He said that during the past year he had tried to keep France on the right path. "I assured stability and the authority of the institutions of the republic," he declared. "I wanted France to remain worthy of her great historic tradition, to progress towards justice by improving the lot of the underprivileged."

He attempted to still the discontent and fears of rural population which often feels it has been let down by a government which does not keep its promises to the farmers on prices, income and security. He said French agriculture had undergone profound change.

"Twenty years ago, it was regarded as a burden to the country, condemned to subsistence and protectionism. Today, it had achieved economic and social parity with other branches of national activity. The reasons were the Govern-



Mr van Agt: taking over on Monday.

Two old faces in new Dutch Cabinet

From Our Correspondent
Amsterdam, Dec 16

The right-of-centre Dutch Government that is to be sworn in on Monday by Queen Juliana will have two Cabinet members who also served in the outgoing left-of-centre government of Mr Joop den Uyl, the new Opposition leader.

They are Mr Andries van Agt, the Prime Minister-designate, who was Minister of Justice, and Mr Althons van der Sme, also a Christian Democrat, who remains the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries in all three 10 Christian Democrat Cabinets.

The youngest member of the van Agt government is also the second highest ranking member. He is Mr Hans Wiegel, leader of the Liberal parliamentary group, who is to be Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior. He is 36.

The important portfolio of finance goes to Mr Frans Andriessen, a Christian Democrat, who was judged too conservative by the Socialists to hold this post. It was over his candidature that talks finally broke down between the Socialists and the Christian Democrats.

The Christian Democrat Mr Christiaan van der Klaauw, a Liberal, will be Foreign Minister. He is a professional diplomat with no political experience.

None of the six Liberals in the new Cabinet has any previous experience of ministerial functions.

The new Minister of Social Affairs, Mr Willem Albeda, a Christian Democrat, is in the odd position that he will have to defend next Thursday a Bill introduced in Parliament by his predecessor Mr Joop den Uyl, which is opposed by the Liberals.

Mr Boersma, who refused a post in the Cabinet, will join the seven left-wing Christian Democrat dissidents in Parliament early in January. The pact on which the coalition is based is vague and will have to be filled in to a large extent by the ministers themselves.

The full Cabinet list is as follows:

Prime Minister: Andries van Agt, aged 47, Minister of Justice: Daniel Tuijnthuis, aged 40, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries: Althons van der Sme, aged 36, Minister of the Interior: Christiaan van der Klaauw, aged 36, Minister of Social Affairs: Willem Albeda, aged 42, Minister of Education and Science: Jan de Koning, aged 40, Minister of Health and Environment: Leo de Koster, aged 40, Minister of Transport and Waterways: Daniel Tuijnthuis, aged 40, Minister of Finance: Frans Andriessen, aged 40, Minister of Foreign Affairs: Christiaan van der Klaauw, aged 36, Minister of Defence: Jan de Koning, aged 40, Minister of Labour: Christiaan van der Klaauw, aged 36, Minister of Housing: Christiaan van der Klaauw, aged 36, Minister of Justice: Daniel Tuijnthuis, aged 40, Minister of Social Affairs: Willem Albeda, aged 42, Minister of Education and Science: Jan de Koning, aged 40, Minister of Health and Environment: Leo de Koster, aged 40, Minister of Transport and Waterways: Daniel 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OVERSEAS



Thick smoke rises in a black pall above the blazing supertanker Venoli off Cape St Francis.

Pollution menace after supertankers collide

From Our Correspondent Johannesburg, Dec 16

A huge supertanker, laden with 250,000 tons of crude oil, was tonight drifting abeam and abandoned 20 miles off the South African coast. Salvage tugs were racing to the scene to try to avert what could end in a unprecedented pollution disaster.

The fully-laden Liberian-registered Venoli (330,954 tons) bound for Europe, collided earlier today in thick fog with the empty sister ship, Venper (330,969 tons) bound for the Gulf, 25 miles off the coast near Port Elizabeth.

The Venoli struck the Venper's stern, and the Venoli was abandoned within half an hour by her Taiwan crew. Two members of the Venper's crew were reported missing at first

but later it was said that all 34 seamen were rescued.

An explosion after the collision was felt in the holiday resort of Plettenberg Bay, 27 miles away. But both assistant port captain of Port Elizabeth, Mr Ian Simpson, who is coordinating salvage efforts, said tonight that the fires were confined to bunker oil and the Venoli's cargo had not yet been affected.

A salvage tug was already alongside the Venper, where the fire was being brought under control, but Mr Simpson said the Venoli was drifting "completely out of hand". The deep sea salvage tug, Wolraad Woltemade, based at Cape Town and one of the most powerful of its type in the world, was expected to reach the area early tomorrow.

An oil slick three miles long

and half a mile wide was moving parallel to the coast.

A helicopter from an oil rig was the first to reach the stricken ship. It lowered a few feet above the deck of the blazing Venper to lift 16 men to safety.

Mr Geoffrey Frielingshaus, commander of the Plettenberg Bay sea rescue unit, said tonight that the helicopter pilot, Mr Buddy Mockford, was a "very brave man" who flew right down into the flames to pick up survivors. "It was a miracle they didn't die."

The helicopter landed the men aboard the tanker Jedforest which is expected to put them ashore at Cape Town tomorrow. Other survivors were on board the British cargo vessel, Clan Menzies. Two other tankers in the area, the Barnaby and Chevron, offered assistance but

were warned to keep clear because of the danger that the two tankers would blow up without warning.

British help: A P & O spokesman in London said the group's 155,000-ton oil-bulk carrier, Jet Forest picked up 38 crew members from the supertankers, all Chinese, who had leapt overboard.

Our Business News Staff writes: With each of the tankers valued at \$28m (about £15m), the collision is almost certain to represent the largest marine loss in history.

A spokesman for Lloyd's said that as much as three-fifths of the risk would have been placed through the London market. Other survivors were on board the British cargo vessel, Clan Menzies. Two other tankers in the area, the Barnaby and Chevron, offered assistance but

Harvard told to halt gene-splicing

Bethesda, Maryland, Dec 16

The National Institutes of Health (the United States Government's main agency for the conduct and support of biomedical research) have for the first time ordered a laboratory to halt gene-splicing research supported by a federal grant because of a procedural violation of the rules governing such studies.

A spokesman for the agency said yesterday that the violation did not involve any known safety rules or laboratory procedures. The action involved a laboratory at Harvard Medical School where recombinant DNA research, popularly known as gene-splicing research, has been in progress for several years. The investigation by the agency is continuing. (DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, is the active substance of genes and there-

fore the key chemical in the heredity of all life.)

The agency supports with funds more than 250 projects in recombinant DNA work at 110 institutions. Such research embraces experimental techniques that have been a subject of much controversy because of the view of some critics that they are potentially dangerous and might lead to deliberate manipulation of heredity in ways the critics consider improper.

Many scientists consider the techniques extremely useful as a tool for learning more about the chemistry of genetics and possibly for developing important medicinal drugs and coping with some presently untreatable genetic diseases.

For about a year, Congress has been considering legislation to set rules for all recombinant DNA research, but has not acted.

The specific procedural violation made known yesterday was Harvard's failure to get an approved memorandum of understanding and agreement concerning the laboratory's experiments before the work actually began. The reason is unknown.

The violation came to light because of a Freedom of Information request from Mr Leslie Dech of the Environmental Defence Fund, who said that he made the inquiry because of reports that people in the laboratory had been using poor laboratory procedures in some of the experimental work.

The institute investigated and found that the required agreement was not obtained. The agency is also investigating possible violations of the recombinant DNA rules by a group at the University of California at San Francisco.

New York Times News Service.

Concorde flights to Singapore cancelled

By Arthur Reed

Concorde flights between London and Singapore have been cancelled until further notice because of the failure to obtain permission for the aircraft to fly through Malaysian airspace.

The service, operated jointly by British Airways and Singapore Airlines, was suspended yesterday only seven days after it was inaugurated in a burst of publicity. The service cut the flight time between the two cities, which can be as long as 20 hours, to nine and a half hours.

A Concorde was in the air on the way to Singapore when the news reached the crew that the talks in Kuala Lumpur between British and Malaysian Government representatives had failed to reach agreement.

The supersonic service was terminated at Bahrain and passengers were offered seats on subsequent flights for the rest of the journey.

The Malaysian opposition Concorde flights through their airspace because they were piqued over what they saw as a lack of consultation by Britain before the new service was due to begin. The service was able to start when Indonesia opened its airspace to Concorde, but only for three return flights. The last of these arrived back in London on Thursday.

British Airways said yesterday: "We are very disappointed. We must now await the outcome of the technical discussions between the two governments, and we will wish to resume services as soon as we possibly can. In the meantime, the Concorde service will continue to operate between London and Bahrain."

The British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur said that the Malaysian Government had agreed to further talks next week and "we naturally hope that these discussions will lead to an early agreement."

NBC signs David Frost in US ratings fight

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Dec 16

The National Broadcasting Company has signed David Frost, the British entertainer, as a surprise weapon in its increasingly fierce battle for supremacy with the other two national networks.

At a press conference last night, Mr Paul Klein, NBC's vice-president for programming, said that Mr Frost would be contracted to the company for three years, and next May would begin a series of six one-hour current affairs programmes.

David Frost has not been seen on American television since his interviews with President Nixon earlier this year. It's been a while since the Nixon interview, popularly made a big splash, Mr Klein said, "and people are anxious to see him again."

The programmes will be broadcast live, and will contain "action profiles, interviews, and the whole cross-section" of current affairs reporting. Although the project is experimental, NBC must consider almost any risk worth taking to restore its position in the ratings.

For some years NBC vied for top network with the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS), and the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) was some way behind. Now ABC is the leading network and NBC is trailing last.

Ethiopia 'reign of terror' horrifies US visitors

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, Dec 16

Two American congressmen who met Colonel Mengistu, the Ethiopian military ruler, during a visit to Addis Ababa, today expressed themselves horrified by the nightly killings, and the absence of respect for human rights in the Ethiopian capital.

Mr Paul Tsongas and Mr Don Bonker, who are urging a greater awareness in Congress of the situation in the Horn of Africa, flew here today from Addis Ababa. They said the United States should re-evaluate its ambivalence towards Ethiopia in order to enhance the American presence there.

They also want economic and humanitarian aid to continue, irrespective of the present military situation.

Mr Tsongas said that the United States should maintain its embargo on military aid to Ethiopia and Somalia, they said.

At the same time, they expressed horror at the human rights situation. In a tour of Addis Ababa earlier today they saw the bodies of nine people who had been killed by "counter-revolutionaries".

"It was a sad and sad experience. There is no doubt that there is a reign of terror in Addis Ababa today. It affects everyone and a cloud of fear permeates the city. We understand the death toll last night was around 50, and many of the bodies had deliberately been left on view," Mr Bonker told a press conference here.

The two congressmen are due to visit Somalia tomorrow where they will meet President Barre. They will later visit Egypt and Sudan.

They are the first high level delegation from the United States to have met Colonel Mengistu, and are the only congressmen to have met him personally.

Australia is to admit 1,050 refugees from Vietnam

Canberra, Dec 16.—The Australian Government will fly 1,050 Vietnamese men, women and children to Australia, the Immigration Department announced today.

The first batch of about 180 will arrive next Friday on a charter flight. The rest will travel on regular flights of the airline Qantas until mid-January.

Mr Michael MacKellar, the Minister of Immigration, has recently sent officials to refugee camps in Thailand and elsewhere in South-East Asia to check on Vietnamese seeking entry to Australia. The move was decided after refugees had reached Darwin in flimsy fishing vessels.

The arrivals of refugees have caused protests from trade unions complaining that the "Vietnamese 'boat people'" were being unfairly favoured by the Government which waived immigration rules and procedures.

Since the end of the Vietnam war in April, 1975, Australia has taken just under 5,000 refugees.

—Reuter.

600 held after bomb attack in Djibouti

Djibouti, Dec 16.—Troops and police have detained more than 600 people after last night's grenade attack on a popular Djibouti night spot, informed sources said. Two people died and 31 were injured in a grenade attack on a popular night spot filled with French soldiers.

—Reuter.

Bushfires kill two in Australia

Sydney, Dec 16.—Bush fires near Sydney today killed two people, destroyed at least 30 homes and forced hundreds of people, including hospital patients, to flee from the area.

—Reuter.

Spassky makes blunder with victory in sight

Belgrade, Dec 16.—Boris Spassky, well on his way to his first victory in his chess match against Viktor Korchnoi, made a crucial mistake tonight before the adjournment and now faces a possible defeat when the game is resumed tomorrow.

For the first time Spassky came out on top against Korchnoi's French Defence, but then made almost any risk worth taking to restore its position in the ratings.

For some years NBC vied for top network with the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS), and the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) was some way behind. Now ABC is the leading network and NBC is trailing last.

Spassky, apparently annoyed by Korchnoi's prolongation of the drawn ninth game, spent over an hour away from the board, watching the position on a demonstration board.

A victory tomorrow would give Korchnoi a 7-2 lead in the 20-game match to decide who will challenge Anatoly Karpov for the world championship.

—Reuter.

General Zia meets Peking leaders

Peking, Dec 16.—General Zia ul-Haq, Pakistan's chief martial law administrator, arrived in Peking this morning for a "friendly informal visit" after a forced 36-hour stop in Shanghai due to bad weather.

Mr Zia, who is accompanied by the Chinese Deputy Prime Minister, Mr General Zia at the airport. He arrived on a Chinese Airlines aircraft, accompanied by Mr Huang Hua, the Chinese Foreign Minister. Also present at the brief military welcoming ceremony were Mr Han Nianluo, the Vice-Foreign Minister, and General Yang Chengwu, the Army Assistant Chief of Staff.

The Pakistani embassy staff

General Zia meets Peking leaders

were at the airport and children of the Peking Pakistani community waved Chinese and Pakistani flags. Among other diplomats and officials were the ambassadors of Iran and North Korea.

The non-official visit is the Chinese Government's first contact with the new Pakistani regime since General Zia seized power "five months ago" and arrested the former Prime Minister, Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was very close to the Chinese.

The Government and the official Chinese press have said they intend to maintain with General Zia's regime the same friendly relations existing between the two countries since

General Zia meets Peking leaders

Mr Bhutto's frequent visits to Peking.

Tonight General Zia will be guest of honour at a banquet, described by a Chinese official as "bilateral", meaning the foreign diplomatic corps would not attend.

During a banquet in his honour in Shanghai last night, General Zia said Sino-Pakistani friendship and cooperation were a "vital element in ensuring peace and stability in our region."

Mr Huang Hua flew specially to Shanghai on Wednesday evening to join General Zia and attended the banquet given by the Shanghai municipal revolutionary committee. —Agence France-Presse.

PARLIAMENT, December 16, 1977

Rash to give a date for direct elections

House of Commons

It would be rash at this stage for the Government to give any undertakings about a specific target date for direct elections to the European Parliament, Mr Frank Judd, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said after announcing forthcoming EEC business.

As the House had exercised its right to choose the first past the post system, the Government had no intention of changing it, and would have to work out and evaluate.

Mr Judd (Portsmouth, North, Lab) said that at present four Council of Ministers' meetings were planned for 1978. The first of these would be on January 16 and possibly 17, and would be a meeting of the Council of Ministers. The second would be on January 18, and would be a meeting of the Council of Ministers. The third would be on January 19, and would be a meeting of the Council of Ministers. The fourth would be on January 20, and would be a meeting of the Council of Ministers.

Mr Judd said that the Government would be in a position to hold elections in next year if that is what the Community decides.

Mr Judd—The Government have made plain both in this House and at meetings of the Council of Ministers the difficulties which we would face if the House decided to go for the first-past-the-post system.

I am certain that at forthcoming meetings, because this is a continuing process of review, we will be asked about how we

see the situation. We obviously will do our best to brief ministerial colleagues on how we see the future.

It would be rash at this stage to give undertakings about specific target dates because we believe that the best way to meet the target date, it would have to be a regional list system. The House has exercised its right to choose the other system and, therefore, we have commitments which we will have to work out and evaluate.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick upon Tweed, Lib)—It would help if the Foreign Secretary (Mr Owen) took someone from the Conservative Front Bench to Brussels in order to explain why they voted to ensure there will not be any direct elections next year.

Mr Judd—That is not for me to deal with.

their discussion on current fisheries proposals. The agenda for the proposed fisheries ministers' meeting has yet to be settled.

Foreign ministers will consider relations with Spain, Cyprus, Turkey and Yugoslavia; the enlargement of the Community and the GATT multilateral trade negotiations. They will also probably consider European/United States relations, in the light of the new United States nuclear support and non-proliferation legislation resulting from President Carter's statement on April 7, 1977.

Agricultural ministers will resume their discussion on common agricultural policy price proposals for 1978-79; and agricultural monetary questions. They may also give further support for agricultural producer groups and the organisation of the potato market.

problem. It was not easy for local authorities to acquire the bylaws they needed. The existing legislation must be activated and the process of acquirers brought to the standard needed.

The outbreak of hepatitis in Birmingham should be taken as a warning.

Mr Alfred Morris, Under Secretary for Health and Social Security, said that he and his department were deeply concerned at the outbreak. Between May and October, 35 cases had been reported in Birmingham and attributed to acupuncturists.

He did not believe that introducing legislation requiring the registration of acupuncturists would, by itself, remove the risk.

It was not only acupuncturists who were causing hepatitis, but ear piercing and tattooing. He hoped that would be widely noted, especially among young people.

Powers already existed for inspection of premises and, if necessary, for prosecution of those who practised their professions in a manner which was a threat to health. There were many, including MPs, who believed that acupuncturists were properly practised, had much to offer.

The acupuncturists' association could apply for the Professions Supplementary to Medicine Act to be extended to cover them and the procedure for doing so had been explained to the association.

Repayment of tax to mortgage holders

Mr John Rodgers (Sevenoaks, C) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he was prepared to consider the delay in payment of tax rebates to mortgagees.

Mr Robert Shelton, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said that the Government was aware of the delay in payment of tax rebates to mortgagees. He said that the Government was considering the possibility of a non-cumulative basis to take account of the delay in payment of tax rebates to mortgagees. He said that the Government was considering the possibility of a non-cumulative basis to take account of the delay in payment of tax rebates to mortgagees.

Call for registration of acupuncturists

Mr Sydney Tierney (Birmingham, Yardley, Lab) in an adjournment debate referred to acupuncturists and the need for the registration and control of their premises.

He said that in his constituency there had been a serious outbreak of viral hepatitis B which had been traced to an acupuncturist using an infected needle. The disease could cause cancer of the liver and sometimes death.

The practitioner concerned had his surgery in his front living room and a mattress on the floor served as a couch. No wash basin was in the room and the general state of cleanliness of the surgery left much to be desired.

The difficulties of the medical authorities, when they moved in when the outbreak was discovered, were compounded by the fact that the acupuncturist had no record of patients.

There was urgent need for the Government to deal with the problem.

There should be some control over unqualified acupuncturists and some check on how many there were in the country.

The Government should legislate for the health and safety of the public and not leave it to local authorities to decide whether or not to do something about the

Contents of files on Commission officials

European Parliament Strasbourg

Parliament decided to ask one of its committees to look further into its personal questionnaires which dealt with the political views of Commission officials.

It was told by its Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Petitions that it was necessary that the Commission guaranteed the freedom of opinion of its officials.

The committee said it understood that the Commission had to guarantee the trustworthiness of a limited number of officials working with highly confidential documents and that the questionnaires of national authorities should not constitute separate files which could influence careers.

The committee had examined a petition from members of the staff committee which asked the European Parliament to ensure that no reference to political, philosophical or religious views was contained in files of officials or other staff.

The petition, in November, 1976, had stated that the Commission had asked its British, Danish and Irish staff to complete a questionnaire concerning their political views.

Mme Marie-Therese Gouthmann (France, Comm) said the questionnaires were an attack on human liberty, and a deliberate infringement of the guarantees and fundamental principles of democracy. It was understood that the questionnaires were being carried out.

Mr Tam Dalyell (West Lothian, Lab) said this issue raised the question of whether the Commission should be responsible for Euratom.

Mr John Prescott (Kingston-upon-Hull, East, Lab) said the debate raised some of the most fundamental issues facing everyone, particularly parliamentarians. MPs had the role of guaranteeing and protecting the freedom of individuals in the Community.

It would be better if Parliament did not express its opinion today but asked the committee to look at the problem again. The political groups could discuss the problems.

M. Francois-Xavier Ortoli, for the Commission, said there was the need to preserve security and the freedom of liberty. The Commission used national questionnaires. It did not have, nor wish to have, a police force since 1958, when the system was introduced for Euratom, had any case been brought before the Court of Justice.

Parliament passed a resolution which asked the council of ministers to submit proposals as soon as possible for direct elections to the European Parliament.

Mr Russell Johnston (Ipswich, Lib) proposed the resolution, and said that it was clear that the elections would be delayed following the decision of the House of Commons on Tuesday. History would judge it a sorry decision.

White Paper on airports strategy out in January

Mr Clinton Davis, Under-Secretary for Trade (Hackney, Central, Lab) in reply to an adjournment debate in the House of Commons said that the Government was considering the possibility of a non-cumulative basis to take account of the delay in payment of tax rebates to mortgagees. He said that the Government was considering the possibility of a non-cumulative basis to take account of the delay in payment of tax rebates to mortgagees.

High intensity rear lights

Mr John Horam, Under-Secretary for Transport, said that the Government was considering the possibility of a non-cumulative basis to take account of the delay in payment of tax rebates to mortgagees. He said that the Government was considering the possibility of a non-cumulative basis to take account of the delay in payment of tax rebates to mortgagees.

Employment of disabled in public sector

The latest figures for the employment of disabled people in the public sector, published in December, showed a decline and gave continued cause for concern, Mr John Grant, Under-Secretary for Employment, said in a written answer to Mr George Rodgers (Shorley, Lab).

Mr Grant said: "It is only right for me to emphasise, however, that the figures do not take into account the fact that many disabled employees who have registered are not in the public sector. Registration is voluntary and many disabled people in employment who have not registered or who are registered and prefer not to register are not included in the figures."

The point has been made by chairman of nationalised industries and public boards in their reply to requests last December to people to provide information towards employing disabled people.

In some instances they have suggested that if all disabled people in their employment registered they could have satisfied the target. Mr Grant said he had assured them that they would do their utmost to increase the number of disabled people in their employment.

Mr Grant said that other initiatives in the area for which they have responsibility and I shall also be writing to the chairman of organisations in the Department of Employment Group.

Law Report December 16 1977

Regina v Governor of Pentonville Prison, Ex parte Kalds

Before Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce and Mr Justice Park

Kyrkos, Marion Kalds, a Cyprus, applied to secure his release from Pentonville Prison on a charge of murder in April, 1973. The Divisional Court, which refused an application of habeas corpus directed to the governor of Pentonville Prison where Mr Kalds had been detained but had been released on bail, rejected submissions that his return would be contrary to sections 8(1) and 8(3) of the Prisoners (Temporary Release) Act, 1967.

Section 4(1) provides: "A prisoner shall not be released on bail if it appears . . . (a) that the offence . . . is an offence of a political character . . . (b) by reason of the passage of time since he is alleged to have committed it . . . it would, having regard to all the circumstances, be unjust or oppressive to return him."

Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, and Mr Leonard Kershaw for the applicant; Mr Michael Neilson for the Crown; Mr Harry Woolf as amicus curiae.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the applicant and Georgios Fotiou were members of the EOKA organisation in Cyprus. There was obviously bad blood between the organisations. On April 5, 1973, Fotiou was shot in the chest. The applicant was investigated and was found to be a member of the organisation. The applicant, who knew that the warrant had been issued, took to the hills. Not until July 1974, when there was a coup which led to a change of government, did the applicant find it possible to come out of the hills and move away from the island inhabitants. But he soon formed the opinion that he would like to live in England and on September 2, 1974, he left Cyprus with an exit permit authorised by the appropriate authorities.

The applicant had been made of the permit during argument. It illustrated that some branch of the Cyprus government was prepared to see the applicant leave the country notwithstanding that the warrant was still outstanding.

He had since virtually stayed in London. He went back to Cyprus on what seemed to have been a holiday. Nobody prevented him from leaving the country. In July, 1975, he was back in England preparing to stay permanently.

In July, 1975, there was an inquiry in Cyprus into the causes of Georgios Fotiou's death and a further warrant was issued in respect of the applicant. The crucial factor to remember in relation to the institution of those proceedings was that they began on February 24, 1976, when the Attorney General of Cyprus first moved.

Mr Blom-Cooper's first argument was that the killing was of a political character within section 4(1)(a). *Halnaby's Laws of England* (vol 18 4th ed 1977 p88 para 217) said that there is no exhaustive definition of "an offence of a political character". The crime must be incidental to and form part of a political or public character within section 4(1)(a). *Halnaby's Laws of England* (vol 18 4th ed 1977 p88 para 217) said that there is no exhaustive definition of "an offence of a political character". The crime must be incidental to and form part of a political or public character within section 4(1)(a). *Halnaby's Laws of England* (vol 18 4th ed 1977 p88 para 217) said that there is no exhaustive definition of "an offence of a political character". 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Christmas Gift Guide

For Everyone

THE TIMES CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE COMPETITION

HOW TO ENTER

First study the guide carefully. Then answer in full three simple questions. (The answers are all in the advertisements in today's Guide.)

Christmas Gift Guide Competition Number 22

Clue: Where should Feline Fanciers go?

Clue: Hold the front page for one of these?

Clue: Nautical gent seeks spare optic. Where should he go?

Now put yourself in Santa's snow boots. Your sleigh is so laden and time so short that you're not likely to consider traffic wardens every time you pull Rudolph to a stop. Imagine your reaction when you are summonsed for parking in a restricted zone.

Then write a 100 word letter to the Clerk of the Magistrates. You are going to plead mitigating circumstances. After all The Times Christmas Gift Guide has made so much extra work this year you can't be expected to notice every yellow line. And remember, a touch of joviality will probably soften the judicial heart.

Then send us your letter, remembering to enclose your full name and address, and indicating which prize you would like to receive should you win.

Three entrants must win every day the Guide is published. Closing date for today's competition, 3 days after today's date. Post this entry to: THE TIMES CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE COMPETITION, No. 12 Coley Street, London WC99 9YT.

The names and addresses of the winners will be published in The Times. The decision of the judges is final. All entries will be judged on their literary merits.

The hand that wields the pen writes a gripping word. Or so last year's letter writing competition made us believe. So this year we would like to test your powers of persuasion even more by asking you to draft an official epistle.

So, at the same time as solving your present problems, write a letter and win yourself one of these fabulous prizes.

A. Beer Pack 24 bottles Löwenbräu Beer, one of the world's most famous beers.

B. A 3lb presentation box of Bendicks hand made chocolates.

C. Liqueurs Pack 1/2 bottle Bols Apricot Brandy.

1/2 bottle Bols Cherry Brandy.

1/2 bottle Bols Crème de Menthe.

1/2 bottle Bols Dry Orange Curacao.

D. Wine Pack 1 bottle Veuve Clicquot Yellow Label Champagne.

1 bottle Croft Original Sherry.

1 bottle Croft Distinction Port.

1 bottle La Cour Pavillon 1973.

E. A box of 25 Bolivar Bonita Havana Cigars.

Save £6.50 on a Polaroid Colour Swinger at Argos.

Capture the fun of Christmas as it happens with these special Christmas offers—
Colour Swinger £10.95
Super Colour Swinger £15.25
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Remember low Argos prices on Polaroid films too!

Colour Swinger Cat. No. 560/247
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Argos Special Price £18.95
SAVE £6.50

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Polaroid and *Swinger* are trademarks of the Polaroid Corporation, Cambridge, Mass., USA

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For shrubs, seeds, house plants, tools, fertilisers, greenhouses — any kind of gardening gift under the sun. You can buy and exchange them at over 1000 garden centres and shops belonging to the Horticultural Trades Association.

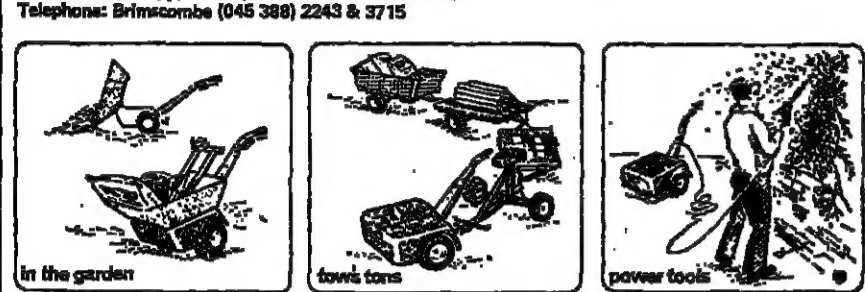
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For the Home

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"Kings or Queens" Christmas
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For the Children

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Saturday Review

Barchester lives on

by Jan Morris

Searching on a wistful whim for Barchester, I came to Wells in Somerset. I craved the Trollopean scene not for itself exactly but for its myth of a Golden Age. Of course, I wanted the incidentals too, the bells across the close, the fine old ladies taking tea beneath college rowing groups featuring, at stroke, their uncle the late Precentor. I wanted the mingled smell of dry rot and market cabbage. I hoped to catch a glimpse of the Organist and Choirmaster, pulling his gown over his shoulders as he hurried across to evensong. But like many other romantics, all over the western world, I hung round really for the hierarchical certainty of the old England, that amalgam of faith, diligence, loyalty, independence and authority which Trollope mischievously ascribed in the legends of his little city.

At least Wells looks impeccable by the part. As one descends from the spooky heights of Tisbury, haunted by spellbinding and Roman snails, it lies here in the lee of the hills infinitely snug and wholesome. No motorway thunders anywhere near. It is 14 miles to the nearest railway station. Though Wells has been a city since the tenth century, it is still hardly more than an ample village, dutifully assembled around the towers of the cathedral: and though beyond it one may see the arcane hums and declivities of the Glastonbury plain, there is nothing very mystical to one's first impression of the place. Its accent is homely Somerset, and its aspect rubicund.

In no time at all I had found myself a room, low-beamed and flower-patterned, in the Crown Hotel overlooking the Market Square, where a rival swam turbidly down the gutter past the old town centre, and hardly less promptly, as it happened, I found myself itself 22 for parking too, outside Penelope's Porch, rough whose squinted archway the green of the precinct had too soon noticed me, and above whose tower the great grey mass of the cathedral self looked benignly down upon warden and miscreant alike.

Almost at once, too, I met the Dean, actually in the shadow of the Porch. Eton, Oxford and the Welsh Guards, it was not hard to identify. In the cathedral, I later discovered, they call him "Father Michael", a disconcerting usage to one of my purposes, but I certainly could not complain about his authenticity once he had shown me the Dean's study. With a splendid command his voice rang out, as we sat there on the beggars' bench watching the citizenry pass by. "Good morning, good morning! Lovely day! What a success yesterday—what would we have done without you?"

Morning! Morning! Morning! Morning! John! (John Hervey, you know, our greatest antiquary on medieval church architecture...)

The Dean of Wells is a very busy man indeed. He showed me his diary, and it was chock-a-block—even Thursday, resolutely marked as his day off, was nibbled into by a meeting of the Judge's Lodgings Committee. It seemed more the life of an impresario than a cleric, and this is because a cathedral nowadays is far more than just a shrine, but is partly a social centre, partly a concert hall, partly a tourist attraction, and in the case of Wells, very largely a National Concern. A few years ago it was realized that the west front of Wells Cathedral, incorporating an unrivalled gallery of not very exciting but undeniably medieval statuary, was crumbling away: the consequent appeal, launched by an obscure firm of professional restorers, suddenly made Wells, like Venice, better known for its decay than for its survival, and added a new dimension to the life of the very Reverend the Dean.

It crossed my mind, indeed, ubiquitous were the symptoms of restoration, that the cathedral's chief function had become its own repair. The building itself, clouded with scaffolding, tap-taps with the

hammers of the masons. One frequently sees the Dean, pashed and umbrella'd, gazing with solicitous eyes at a leprous, evangelist or precariously cornice. Outside the west doors there stands a superannuated Victorian pillar-box, painted bright blue, for the acceptance of contributions, and hardly a week seems to pass without some food-raising function beneath the bald inverted arches of the nave (themselves a restorative device, or they were hastily erected when, in 1338, the central tower lurched twelve feet out of true).

But no, the Dean reassured me over lunch, the true focus of cathedral life remained the daily services which, however infinitesimal the congregation are held now as always in the panelled seclusion of the choir. Behind the scenes the immemorial functions of the cathedral continue, each with its titular chief: the Baron of the exchequer, the Chancellor, the Master of the Fabric, the Communal, the Chief Steward. The Dean still presides over the Quinquagesima of his Cathedral. The Prior-Vicar, the Late Vicar, the Canon, the Residential, the vergers, the 21 choristers—all are there to offer their gifts and energies to the daily affirmation of the faith.

I took him at his word, and went that afternoon to evensong: or rather, like nearly everybody else in sight, I loitered about the interior of the cathedral while evensong proceeded beyond the narrow entrance of the choir—allowing me, from the dimmer recesses of the nave, suggestive glimpses of surplices, shaded lamps, anthem sheets and musical motions within. It was magical. The rest of the great building lay in hush, haunted only by self-consciously shuffling groups of sightseers, and encapsulated there in their bright-lit chamber, as though in heavenly orbit, the Dean, his canons, the musicians and a handful of devoted worshippers performed their evening ritual.

The anthem was S. S. Wesley's *Thou Wilt Keep Him*, among the most lyrical in the repertoire, and it was touching to see how many of the tourists leant in silence against pillars, or paused thoughtfully in their decipherment of epigraphs as the sweet melody sounded through the half-light.

"Can I go and meet Daddy now?" I heard a voice say from the cathedral shop, near the west door (where Mr John Hervey's work seemed to be selling well). "He's bound to be down from the loft by now." He was, the last note of the voluntary having faded away into the Lady Chapel, and presently the Organist and Choirmaster, his wife, his two daughters and I were comfortably before a fire in Vicar's Close, the exquisite double row of 14th century houses, which runs away to the north of the Chapter House, (and which is the only part of the Wells cathedral precinct properly called the Close). Here was Barchester all right! An Oxford print hung above the fireplace, a cat luxuriated on the hearth; books, musical instruments, edibles and Cézanne were all equally to hand.

"It was by no means the only musical house in the neighbourhood, for the cathedral precinct of Wells, if it sometimes suggests show business and often package-tours, sometimes feels like one gigantic conservatoire. Muffled from within the cathedral walls, any hour of the day, one may hear the organ rumbling. Celestial through the open doors come smatches of *Thou Wilt Keep Him*. From old grey houses around the green sound smatches of string quartet, trombone arpeggios or tinkles of Cézanne. Landy has the Organist, and Choirmaster finished one performance than he is up there again with his choristers, high in their medieval practice room behind Penelope's Porch, rehearsing Wood in C Minor for the following day.

If faith is the reason for Wells, music is its most obvious allegiance. Wells Cathedral School is one of the three schools in England offering specialist education for musically gifted children, tracing its origins to a Song School of the thirteenth century, while the music of the cathedral itself is intensely professional. I much enjoyed this feeling of disinterested technique, so remote from commercial competition or union claim. I saw something truly noble to the spectacle of that daily choral celebration, performed to the last degree of excellence, attended by almost nobody but the choirboys themselves: a practice more generous, more frank, more English (I ventured to suppose) than micromanaged or medicated—and more acceptable actually, in my mind, to the sort of gods I myself cherish, the gods of the stones and the lavender, than to the Christian divinity to whom it has, for a thousand years, been interruptedly been offered.

Before I left Vicar's Close, the children invited me to write something in their autograph book. Visitors always did, they said. I looked with interest at the previous entries, expecting to find there, as one would in a Barchester book, the names of visiting politicians, magistrates or men of letters: but no, they were musical class almost to a crawl—the composers, the instrumentals, the teachers who pass in a constant stream these days through the busy precincts of Wells. (When I saw what witty things they had written there, I could think of nothing comparably witty to say myself, so I drew a couple of pictures of the cathedral instead.)

"Thought you said you couldn't draw," the children kindly said. "We think you're jolly good."

The loyalty essential to the myth of Englishness is of course, embodied in Wells in

through a prohibited aperture somewhere in the masonry and so discovered for himself the infinite complexity of the place. Now he knows it all, its unsuspected corridors and hidden galleries, its vaults and its cloisters, through his yards and offices pass all the architects, the restorers, the masons, the accountants, the surveyors and the builders' merchants perpetually engaged, as they have been for so many centuries, in maintaining the holy structure. He was like the Master-at-Arms on a warship. I thought, beneath whose experienced eye the workaday life of the vessel goes on, leaving the men on the bridge above, like those priests and choristers at evensong, free to attend to the navigation.

Then there is the Horlogist. The most beloved single artifact in Wells Cathedral, I would say, is the medieval Great Clock in the north transept. It is claimed to possess the oldest working clock-face in Europe: whenever it strikes the hour four little horsemen, whirling round and round, knock each other off their wooden horses with lances, while a deadpan character called Jack Blandiver sits stiffly on his seat high on a wall near by, nods his head, and kicks two more with his heels.

Every morning at half past eight or so, if you hang round High Street, you may see Mr Ken Fisher, of Fisher's the Clockmakers, on his way to wind this endearing timepiece.

His father did it before him, his son will doubtless follow, and never was a labour more beloved. "There's old Jack", says Mr Fisher affectionately as he unlocks the door to the clock gentry, and looks up at the quaint old figure on the wall: and when you have climbed the narrow winding steps, and emerged on the gallery high above the chancel, looking through the inverted arches to the empty nave beyond, then he opens the big glass doors of the mechanism as one might open a cabinet of treasures.

The works are Victorian, the originals being in the Science Museum at South Kensington, and Mr Fisher admires them enormously. What workmanship! What precision! Look at those cogs! Feel how easily the handle turns! (There are three separate movements to be wound up each morning, with a big iron handle, and Mr Fisher is not averse to his visitors helping with the work.) I caught his mood as, once, and found the experience oddly soothing. Everything felt wonderfully handmade up there, so rich in old wood and dressed stone, with that elaborate gleaming mechanism slowly ticking, and Mr Fisher in his shirt-sleeves cherishing it, and the beautiful cool space of the cathedral beneath one's feet.

"Wouldn't it be good?" I said, "if everything in life felt like this?" "Ah, wouldn't it?" said he, resuming his coat, after the exertion of the clock-winding. "But you have to

work for it, you see. It doesn't look after itself! Come here now, look down here"—and he showed me down a little shaft to the circular platform on which the four knights of the Great Clock, relieved from their eternal tour until the next quarter-hour, were resting woodenly on their arms. "Now those fellows down there take a lot of looking after. They break so easily, you see. Well, they would, wouldn't they, hitting each other with their lances every quarter of an hour? You can't expect them to last for ever, knocking each other about like that!"

In a curious way, I felt, the cathedral was more the property of the Town than of the Close. Bishops, Deans and Canons come and go (only three Deans have gone on to be Bishops of Bath and Wells), but the shopkeepers and the businessmen, the farmers, even the traders who bring their vans and stalls to Wells Market every week—these people live all their lives in the presence of the great building, and must feel it to be part of their very selves. Wells has its own magnificent parish church for their vicars, but recently by the tourists for the cathedral itself. It has a substantial landed interest and some thriving small industries. But still every street seems to look, every alley seems to lead almost every conversation seems somehow to turn, to that ancient presence beyond Penelope's Porch.

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As it happens the Bishop's palace at Wells is perhaps the most splendid Bishop's Palace of all. Surrounded by its own moat, its own castellated walls, its own parkland beyond, it stands on the edge of Wells, in the flank of the cathedral, looking across green fields into the depths of Somerset. It is like a fortress, and though the enormous banquet hall is now only a picturesque ruin, still the palace is a terrific spectacle. Duck of many varieties paddles its moat, and the celebrated fittilla of swans, which, for several generations, rang the bell at the gatehouse for their vicars, has recently been restocked and recruited for the exercise. The palace itself stands grandly around its yard, with a huge pillared refectory, and a fine library, and a private living memory, daily choral services were held for the Bishop, his family and his servants.

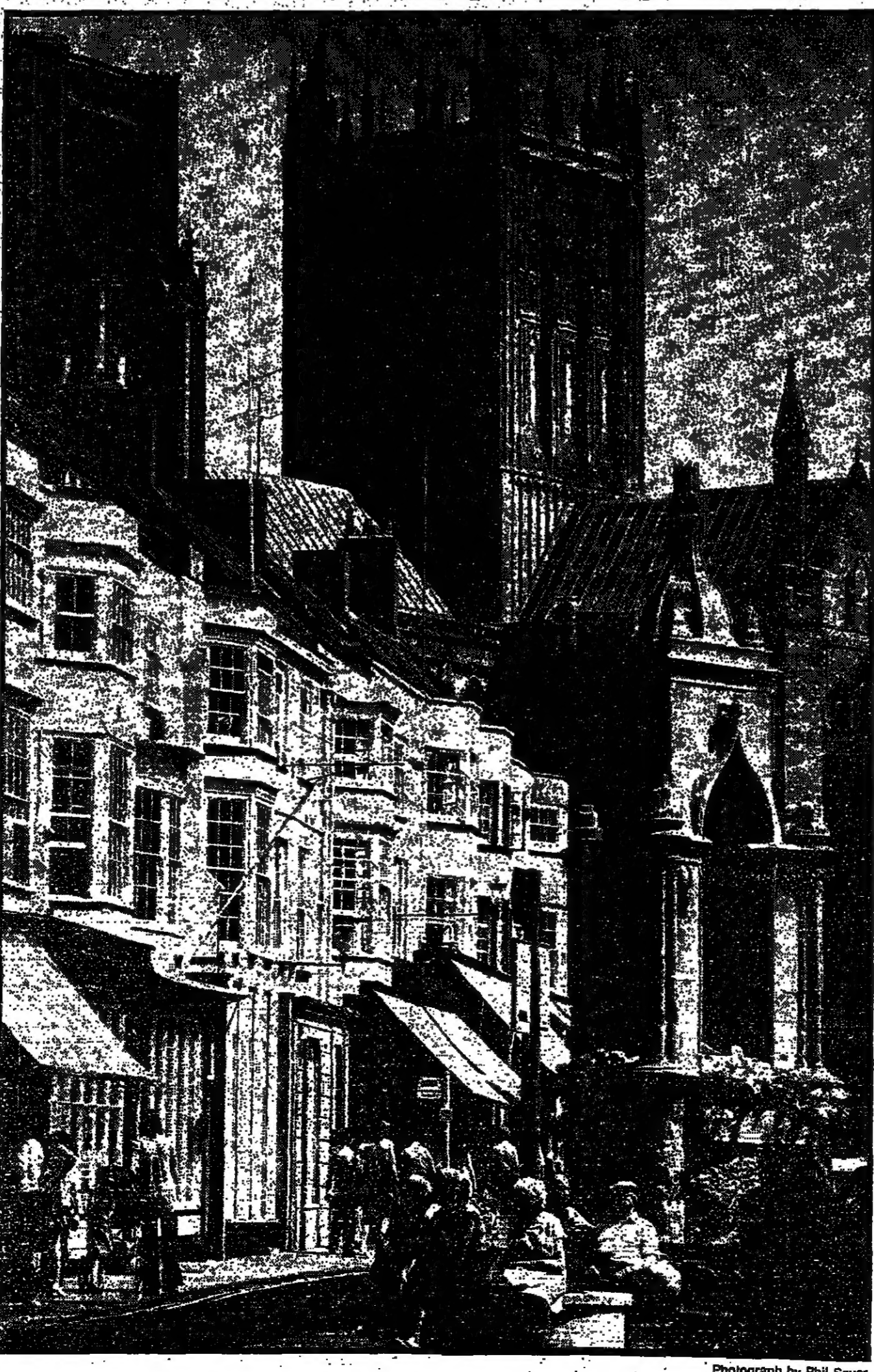
But alas, no majestically awful Mrs Froudie greeted me at the palace door. Nobody greeted me at the main door at all, for the Bishop of Bath and Wells now lives only in the north wing of the structure, the rest being devoted to cupboards and other useful activities. In Wells, his office is only a step or two from the cathedral, almost opposite the Spar (and just up the road from the King's Head which has been unenvyingly metamorphosed into a Chinese restaurant). The paper is shortly to move to more modern premises, but its funny old gimcrack buildings are for the moment in Street, all ramshackle and disjointed, like the kitchen quarters of some dilapidated mansion. How knowingly, I thought, those Linotypes chartered! What intricate vandals, and innumerable had found their way through those presses, during the 128 years in which the Wells Journal has kept its eye unwaveringly on precinct and market place!

He yes, said the editor wryly. There was never a shortage of gossip in Wells, or controversy either. They were an independent sort, the Wellsians. Why, I should have heard the fuss when the Bishop took to cutting the wild duck in his moat by shooting them out of his window! Or when they built those dreadful new canons' houses all trendy streaked concrete, behind the Old Deanery! Oh, yes, Wellsians often resented the airs of the clergymen up there, though it was not strictly true that the precinct was walled in defence against the assaults of the townspeople, often enough it felt like it.

The Alderman vehemently agreed the controversial Alderman, everyone called him, who turned out to be a fiery Welshman, bred by the Parachute Regiment out of the Swansea valleys, whose passionately conservative views during his period as Mayor had led him into bitter conflict with the cathedral. Vividly he recalled those old affairs for me. Had he not threatened to take the Dean to court when he chopped down the Mulberry Tree? Did he not lead the opposition to those frightful canonical houses? Was it not he who instructed his Council when the Bishop was late for a civic function, to take their seats without his Lordship?

The Alderman clearly loves a fight, and I rather wished he was engaged in one just then, so that I could see the sparks fly for myself. But no, though he spoke to me movingly of an erroneous new sewage scheme, all was quiet in Wells just then. There had been a new Bishop and a new Dean since his day, Wells no longer had a Mayor, and most of the local government functions had been taken away to Shepton Mallet. He sounded rather disappointed, and so was I, for Barchester is not Barchester after all, without a battle on its hands.

Or, for that matter, without a Mrs Froudie. It was when I reached the Bishopric at last that I felt my pilgrimage had failed. Faith I had certainly found in Wells, diligence, loyalty, pride: but the sense of authority, of an established order, the unbreakable and supreme, which is essential to the Romantic view of England, is lost with the winds of social and historical necessity. In Trollope's allegories that was represented.



Photograph by Phil Sayer

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scholarships
The National Society of Arts has announced their 1950-51 scholarships. Just over £2000 is available in all, has been divided into singers and writers, and there is a further geographic scholarship.

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A Sutherland jubilee

Maria Stuarda
Covent Garden

William Maan

This year Joan Sutherland celebrates her silver jubilee as a Covent Garden singer. She does so by giving the Royal Opera House its best performance of Donizetti's *Maria Stuarda*, an opera nowadays so favoured and familiar that you are surprised to read of no production here in the nineteenth century, or indeed until 1966 at Camden Festival (only the fourth production this century).

Nobody will wish to press a connection between our Queen Elizabeth's silver jubilee and this opera, which for all its dramatic intensity and musical splendour, presents the first Elizabeth as a particularly unpleasant person. Schiller's unsympathetic portrayal of our beloved Gloriana had some historical basis, as Britten's much less fictional Coronation opera has shown. Donizetti's Regina, like Schiller's Königin, was semi-caricatured so as to contrast strongly with the gentle, frail, Mary Queen of Scots, whom she cruelly put to a wronged death.

British royalties are inclined to play down the villainy of Donizetti's Elizabeth in this opera (he built three operas round her, not all so uncompromisingly). In John Copley's somewhat didactic production of *Maria Stuart* for the English National Opera, it was a joint venture by London's two main opera companies, and has now returned across the old market square to the Royal Opera House, where it is given in the original Italian. At the Coliseum Mary was a mezzo, Elizabeth a soprano, the music being transposed, following old-fashioned practice, to fit the vocal redistribution, since Donizetti envisaged a soprano Maria and a mezzo-soprano Elizabeth (the distinction between female voices was less rigid then than now).

Covent Garden reverts to the traditional scheme, not least because Maria is Joan



Huguetta Tourangeau and Joan Sutherland

Photograph by Anthony Glickman

Sutherland's role. But her royal sparring partner, here as always in the past, is Huguetta Tourangeau from French Comedie, who turns the Virgin Queen into a villainess of rivalling malevolence. With the Earl of Leicester, whom she fancies but suspects of inconstancy, she is spiteful, eyes ablaze, lip arched in scorn. She faces Mary Stuart, in Schiller's Benvenuto Cellini, with smirks and head-tossing, her orange hat raked frivolously, her attitude carelessly autocratic, her riding-whip over her shoulder to belabour her wretched royal cousin. It is a tremendous performance capped by the self-dramatising of the next scene when she has to sign the sentence.

Miss Tourangeau has the voice, as well as the physical personality, to carry this terrific characterization, the cavernous alto register miraculously synchronised to a bright,

easy, rasping top. The sense of malevolence is backed to the hilt by Richard Van Allen's gangsterish Cecil, a throwing of the Virgin Queen into a villainess of rivalling malevolence. With the Earl of Leicester, whom she fancies but suspects of inconstancy, she is spiteful, eyes ablaze, lip arched in scorn. She faces Mary Stuart, in Schiller's Benvenuto Cellini, with smirks and head-tossing, her orange hat raked frivolously, her attitude carelessly autocratic, her riding-whip over her shoulder to belabour her wretched royal cousin. It is a tremendous performance capped by the self-dramatising of the next scene when she has to sign the sentence.

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The Importance of Being Earnest

Round House

Irving Wardle

With the Prospect Theatre Company's entrenchment at the Old Vic, there is likely to be no crossing stage for any troupe that can commit itself to touring good productions around neglected provincial dates; and the obvious candidate for this task is the most widely deployed Actors' Company.

It is easy to point to their diminished grant to explain their decline; but without having seen their first Round House production, *Do You Love Me?* I wish there were more signs that they were fighting back and asserting their own importance. A flexible, first-class actors' collective is potentially of greater value now than it was four years ago, especially as the company has abundantly demonstrated what fine results it can produce.

The present show is by no means a washout, but what a play to choose when you are hard up. Even on the country address: Gwendoline gets a perfectly composed reading from Rosie Kerslake who seems every inch the daughter of Ann Firbank's regally correct Lady Bracknell. Both performances are right inside Wilde's joke, though both are on the small scale. The production incorporates material from the four-act version. It would also have been nice to see the dunning solicitor Gribby from the longer text, but I understand that would have cost too much money.

Lifting the curtain on Soviet theatre, Sheridan Morley reports on a visit to Moscow with Trevor Nunn and Francesca Annis—page 11.

King Charming

Players' Theatre

Ned Chalkley

Christmas joys in London theatres are not confined to children, though a surprising number of good theatregoers are apparently ignorant of the most exciting and highly varied of adult drama. Every year the Players' Theatre unearths a pastiche from the reign of Good Queen Victoria and, preceding it with some stylish medieval turns, mounts a production which sparkles with literary and musical burlesque. This season the vaults have yielded *King Charming*, "a fairy extravaganza" by J. R. Planché, first performed in 1850.

Because the Players is a club, with restaurant and a bar, and tables among the seats where spectators can rest their bottles of wine while they applaud a song or have a villain, it may escape the notice of those who rely on small advertisements in the newspapers. Those who find their way to Villiers Street this year will discover that *King Charming*, beautiful, powerful and at least 300 years old, has set his heart on marrying King Henry's lovely daughter, Florina. Hennepeck's Queen, Trama, means to offer her ungrateful daughter from a previous

The Big Time

BBC 1

Alan Coren

When previous seasons' Big Time sought to fly the high trapeze or ride in the Grand National, one was totally engaged on their behalf: it was *National Velvet*, it was *Camelot*, it was *Goldfinger*.

Nothing else in the production remotely approaches his performance. But on the utility level the comedy works well enough once the plot, mechanics and characterisation are in place. The two boys are nicely distinguished: and if Martin Connor's Algie is closer to Wooster than Wilde, he supplies a grinning, greedy tell to John Harding's John, an insouciantly regal presence, shooting off abrupt smiles from above his stuffed shirt, and altogether suggesting a well-bred penguin with a secret life. His appearance in a deep mountaintop scene is a masterly act off to a cracking start.

The girls, likewise, are unevenly matched. Ann Hanson crucially misreads the loveable Cecil as boyish on the strength of her country address: Gwendoline gets a perfectly composed reading from Rosie Kerslake who seems every inch the daughter of Ann Firbank's regally correct Lady Bracknell. Both performances are right inside Wilde's joke, though both are on the small scale. The production incorporates material from the four-act version. It would also have been nice to see the dunning solicitor Gribby from the longer text, but I understand that would have cost too much money.

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Philarmonia/Maazel

Festival Hall

Paul Griffiths

It was heartening to find the Festival Hall well filled on Thursday for the first British performance of a big orchestra, piece by a composer who has not so far attracted a great deal of notice. Maybe the lure was a large helping of C major. Mozart, the concerto K.467 with Vladimir Ashkenazy as soloist, and the *Jupiter* symphony, but the applause at the end of Raymond Preura's concerto for orchestra, was warm and genuine.

Preura is an American by birth, which explains why his concerto was among the works commissioned for the Cleveland Orchestra and Lorin Maazel, last night's conductor, to celebrate the Bicentennial. By residence, however, he is British, and at Philarmonia, last night's conductor, to celebrate the Bicentennial. By residence, however, he is British, and at Philarmonia, last night's conductor, to celebrate the Bicentennial.

The Gingerbread Man

Old Vic

Irving Wardle

Of the 14 David Wood children's productions showing around Britain this Christmas, I doubt if anything better will turn up than this splendid entry by the Cambridge Theatre Company.

Like that Wood classic, *The Plovers of Cabbage Patch Corner*, it starts from the fact that children live closer to the ground than the rest of us, and re-creates a world at their eye level: worlds of class-conscious insects, or in this case, animated kitchen utensils, to whom adults are indeed a race of arbitrary and all-powerful giants.

Mr Wood is not one to be hamstrung by any existing story, and all he has salvaged from the traditional Gingerbread Man is a hero who is fast on his feet, astute, and brand new. Instead of vanishing down the fox's gullet, he lives on to heal the old feud between the dresser folk and the witchy old teabag on the top shelf, and to defeat their joint enemy, Sleek the Mouse. The kitchen becomes a perilous territory with its own

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RSA scholarships

The Royal Society of Arts have just announced their 1978 scholarships. Just over £20,000, 12 scholarships in all, has been awarded, and singers and cricketers, and there is a further choreographic scholarship of £1,600.

Choreographic workshop

Continuing London Festival Ballet's policy of encouraging young choreographers there will again be a choreographic workshop on December 21 at the Collegiate Theatre, Gordon Street, WC1, at 7.30 p.m.

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GLC South Bank Concert Halls

A Greater London Council enterprise. Director: George Mass DBE. Tickets: £2.50. Telephone bookings not accepted on Sundays. Information: 020 2872. For enquiries when postal bookings have already been made: 020 2872. S.A.E. with postal applications.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Today 7.30 p.m.	GOLDSMITHS CHORAL UNION S. Wright (cond) S. Wright and A. Sanders (two pianos) C. Sowerby-Broadbent (organ) Cello for choir and audience
Sunday 7.30 p.m.	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Conductor: Sir John Pritchard Programme: Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 Mahler: Symphony No. 2 All seats sold
Monday 7.30 p.m.	GOLDSMITHS CHORAL UNION Conductor: S. Wright Programme: Mendelssohn: Hymn Mendelssohn: Hymn Mendelssohn: Hymn All seats sold
Tuesday 7.30 p.m.	LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Conductor: Sir John Pritchard Programme: Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 Mahler: Symphony No. 2 All seats sold

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Today 7.30 p.m.	CITY OF LONDON CHOIR Conductor: Richard Popplewell (organ) Programme: Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 Mahler: Symphony No. 2 All seats sold
Monday 7.30 p.m.	CITY OF LONDON CHOIR Conductor: Richard Popplewell (organ) Programme: Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 Mahler: Symphony No. 2 All seats sold
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Wednesday 7.30 p.m.	CITY OF LONDON CHOIR Conductor: Richard Popplewell (organ) Programme: Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 Mahler: Symphony No. 2 All seats sold
Thursday 7.30 p.m.	CITY OF LONDON CHOIR Conductor: Richard Popplewell (organ) Programme: Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 Mahler: Symphony No. 2 All seats sold
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Sunday 7.30 p.m.	CITY OF LONDON CHOIR Conductor: Richard Popplewell (organ) Programme: Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 Mahler: Symphony No. 2 All seats sold

PURCELL ROOM

Today 7.30 p.m.	LONDON GABRIELI BRASS ENSEMBLE Conductor: Sir John Pritchard Programme: Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 Mahler: Symphony No. 2 All seats sold
Monday 7.30 p.m.	LONDON GABRIELI BRASS ENSEMBLE Conductor: Sir John Pritchard Programme: Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 Mahler: Symphony No. 2 All seats sold
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Sunday 7.30 p.m.	LONDON GABRIELI BRASS ENSEMBLE Conductor: Sir John Pritchard Programme: Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 Mahler: Symphony No. 2 All seats sold

Wigmore Hall

Manager: William Lyne. Mailing list 80p a year. Tickets from Wigmore Hall, 26 Wigmore St. W1. 01-935 2141 or Keith Prosser and other agents.

Today 7.30 p.m.	COHEN TRIO Conductor: Sir John Pritchard Programme: Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 Mahler: Symphony No. 2 All seats sold
Monday 7.30 p.m.	COHEN TRIO Conductor: Sir John Pritchard Programme: Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 Mahler: Symphony No. 2 All seats sold
Tuesday 7.30 p.m.	COHEN TRIO Conductor: Sir John Pritchard Programme: Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 Mahler: Symphony No. 2 All seats sold
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THE COHEN TRIO

Raymond Cohen violin, Anthony Rael piano, Robert Cohen cello. The trio in G. Op. 73, No. 2 "Gypsy Trio". The trio in D. Op. 70, No. 1 "The Ghost". The trio in A. Op. 99 "The Ghost".

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ENTERTAINMENTS

also on pages 8 and 9

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WEMBLEY CONFERENCE CENTRE

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RAYMOND GURRAY Presents

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A NEW BURST OF EXCITEMENT FROM THE SOVIET UNION
OVER 40 DANCERS, SINGERS & MUSICIANS - FIRST TIME IN BRITAIN
SPECTACULAR DANCING - COLOURFUL NATIONAL COSTUMES
£2.50, £3.50, £5.80 (ALL OTHERS SOLD) Box Office (902 1234) & Agents.Royal Opera House in association with
Scott Concert Promotions Ltd.
COVENT GARDEN SUNDAY CONCERTS

Sunday 8 January, 8.00 p.m.

First recital at the Royal Opera House

ALFREDO KRAUS

Pianist: Mignel Zanetti

Programme includes songs by Gluck, Giordani, Scarlatti,
Tosti, Rossini, Massenet and Ruiz-de-Luna.
Prices: £5.00, £4.00, £3.50, £3.00, £2.50, £2.00, £1.00.
Box Office: 01-240 1066 Gardendance (Credit Cards) 01-836 6903English National Opera North
Music Director: David Lloyd-Jones

ORCHESTRAL MANAGER

A new opera company, to be based at the Grand Theatre, Leeds, is being formed under the auspices of English National Opera. The company will give its first performance in November 1978. Applications are invited for the post of Orchestral Manager who will assist the Music Director in the task of forming a full strength symphony orchestra which will play for the Company's opera performances and also give its own orchestral concerts. The Manager must take an active part in union negotiations and be responsible for the day-to-day running and discipline of the orchestra. Previous managerial experience is vital and suitable qualified candidates should apply by January 8, 1978 to: The Managing Director, English National Opera, London Coliseum, 55, Martin Lane, London, WC2N 6LS, with brief details of their careers.

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Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, S.W.1

Sundays 10.30 a.m. & 7 p.m.

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ORATORY

ST PAUL'S FESTIVAL CHORUS AND

(London: Jack Steadman)

Kathleen Livingston, Richard Johnson, Kim

Nail Macklin, Richard Johnson, Kim

Conductor: John Pople

Admission by Programme £1.00

CINEMA

SCREEN ON BELMONT GREEN

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Arts

Lifting the curtain on Soviet theatre

The last foreign theatre delegation to pass through Moscow were the Italians, who took 75 directors, designers, critics and fans on a fortnight's grand tour last Easter: ours was a somewhat smaller group. There were three of us: Trevor Nunn, director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, Francesca Annis, who has just reached the end of two Stratford years as Juliet and Cressida, and myself. We were in the Soviet Union for the first 10 days of this month at the invitation of the Great Britain-USSR Association who, like the British Council, are interested in the possibilities of a major London-Moscow theatre exchange during the next few months.

Considering the identity of two thirds of our delegation, the association had also presumably decided that if any theatre company from here is to visit Russia in the next couple of years it should be the RSC, a decision I find it hard to quarrel with given the current artistic strength of our company and the present over-

all state of the National and its finances.

Our delegation was theoretically informal (a consideration which did not prevent frequent gatherings with Soviet theatre officials, all of whom expected lengthy formal speeches followed by question-answering sessions) and we had no brief to promote them anything: clearly, however, the Russians are expecting us to send them something in the very near future and equally clearly they would like to pay a return visit. The problems at this end are considerable: the machinery of the World Theatre seasons no longer exists, the economics of sending a company to Moscow and keeping its theatres full at weekends, and, cash apart, there are many who would argue that to engage in any kind of cultural exchange at this time amounts to aiding and abetting a still-repressive regime.

In equally if not more repressive times we have, however, sent over the Redgrave *Hamlet*, the Gielgud *Ages of Man*, the Scofield *Lear*, the Olivier *Othello* and a courageous Prospect tour. Moreover,

even those observers in Moscow who take the most despairing view of the likelihood of a forthcoming dissident show trial agree with Sakharov that the door from the West has to be kept open whatever the moral cost.

Theoretically, it is clear that there is still great interest in the British: detailed questions about Edward Bond, Arnold Wesker and Peter Brook indicated a far greater knowledge of our theatre than most of us could claim in reverse, and from those Russians who have recently been able to travel to London, word has spread through Moscow and Leningrad of Robert Bolt's *State of Revolution* and Alan Bennett's *The Old Country*, both of course, plays which arouse more than a little local Soviet interest.

Admittedly we were forever talking to theatre addicts and theatre experts: ask an average Russian in the street (if you can find one) and he will tell you he's seen *Hamlet* 15 times, or that he's seen *Othello* and the answer will quite possibly be Jesus Christ Superstar, about which there seems an

abnormal amount of curiosity unless you assume that it is as close as they now want to get towards organised religion. A Russian version has already been staged, and both *My Fair Lady* and *West Side Story* turn up regularly in repertoires as, more seriously, do translations of Osherson, Webster, Delaney and Arthur Miller.

Predictably, perhaps, there's not yet much sign of Stoppard, nor do they seem to have got around to Shaffer or much of Pinter: but there's no doubt that the fervency with which they approach plays both new and old, musical and non-musical, far exceeds anything I have ever seen elsewhere in the world. Night after night, in the freezing cold outside theatres, we were swamped by people waiting around on the off-chance of a spare ticket; queues were forming for a Saturday morning matinee of *Henry IV* in Leningrad, and every show in town seemed to be playing to standing room only, partly because each show plays only two or three nights a month as part of crowded permanent-company which have been playing in repertoires.

Tickets are often a reward, either for standing in overnight queues or for belonging to the right factory group or simply for increased productivity: thus the theatre is regarded with a kind of holy awe by most of its audiences, and productions which have been playing in repertoires for maybe five or even 10 years and are clearly now in need of recasting and rethinking still get capacity houses and prolonged applause—though not, admittedly, as long as the granted to Plesetskaya's *Carmen* ballet at the Bolshoi, which must be the only production on record where the curtain calls last very nearly as long as the dancing.

Our delegation was seldom of one mind about any of the productions we saw, and these are my rather than our views: we did agree, however, on certain basic impressions, one of which was that the system of no theatrical unemployment can lead to a hardening of the arteries in some companies while allowing others to explore their horizons over five or 10-year programmes. In each case the difference was made

for better or worse by the director of the company, and Trevor Nunn never ceased explaining to his incredulous counterparts that a British theatre director thinks himself lucky if he can get an actor to sign on for two years: there, 20 or 30 is not uncommon.

In the very limited time available, all we saw of the Moscow Art Theatre was an *Anna Karenina*, despite the presence of the legendary Smolenskoy in the title role, seconded as me dead beyond recall: Stanislavsky himself, we were told, gave up going to that theatre in the last seven years of his life, but it is only fair to add that there may well be better productions now in the repertoire which deserve an invitation. Also in Moscow, the Red Army Theatre has a play called *Holy of Holies* which I believe should be seen not only for the central performances of Plesetskaya and Ladogorov, but also for the proof that limited criticism of the regime (in this case its passion for heartless urbanization) is now permissible provided you have an up-beat ending.

In Riga, a Latvian town the size of Sheffield where there are eight major repertory theatres and an opera house, they have a stunningly good *Brand* played out on one of the most amazing revolving stages I have ever seen, and in Leningrad while we were there the Anatoly Efros production of *Don Juan* brought two massively good performances from Michael Kazakov and Leo Duxov: next year, all being well, they'll be at the Edinburgh Festival though not, alas, with this production.

At the Gorky in Leningrad, Tolstoy's *Henry IV* (a three-hour condensed version of Parts I and II highlighting Falstaff and Hotspur, the latter being played by a man in his middle fifties but mesmerizing for all that) is now in its tenth season and showing signs of wear and tear, but there again the company have brought much else into the repertoire since their last visit to London a decade ago and clearly deserve another invitation.

So what should we be sending them? If a company were going tomorrow, I would lobby for an RSC troupe of the

McKellen *Macbeth* and *Wild Oats*, if Howard could be persuaded to return to that cast, along, if possible, with their musical *Comedy of Errors*. But as it may already be too late to get a tour going in 1978, such are the planning complexities, it is anyone's guess what the RSC will have on offer 18 months hence.

A 1979 visit now seems the most likely, if only because 1980 is the Moscow Olympics and nobody wants to risk leaving it as late as 81. The request will certainly be for a major Shakespeare, but there is room for a modern production as well. In the best of all possible worlds it could perhaps be argued that the modern play should be Tom Stoppard's *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour*, though that is not a suggestion I make in any expectations of realization whatsoever. Still, as we endlessly tried to remind the infinitely welcoming, infinitely hospitable, infinitely official groups we met along the way, the play's the thing.

Sheridan Morley

Gardening

Rooting around in the cellar

At this season of good will may we think, for a moment, of Gardeners' Sunday the organization that coordinates the opening of private gardens on behalf of the two gardeners' charities, the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society and the Royal Gardeners' Orphan Fund.

This year the garden openings again brought a welcome net sum for the charities: it will be, nearly £15,000—I remember only a few years ago when the organizers wondered if they would live to see the day when the figure of £10,000 could be raised.

But the scheme relies on the ability and willingness of the owners of gardens to open them to the public. Every year inevitably some gardens are lost to the scheme—they may have been sold for building, the owners can no longer afford the time or labour to keep them up properly, or car parking facilities are no longer available.

These are many valid reasons why a garden owner can no longer support the scheme. So it is to be hoped that new gardens will be opened every year.

Last year, 37 new gardens were open, for the first time keeping the total at well over 300 gardens. This year so far 31 new garden owners have offered to help and hopefully the new acquisitions will more than compensate for the withdrawals. But the Gardeners' Sunday scheme would greatly welcome more gardens. A garden to interest visitors does not have to be vast. Mrs Sheila Macquellan the celebrated flower arranger and four friends, all within about a mile of each other in Hertfordshire, opened their gardens this year and contributed £1,700 to the fund. They will again be opening their gardens next year on July 9.

If you would like to open your garden for these two very worthy charities next year, please write at once, before Christmas so that details can be included in the booklet published early in the year. The address to write to is Gardeners' Sunday, White Witches, Claygate Road, Dorking, Surrey.

In the past I have several

times recommended the new Dutch self-folding chicory varieties—those which will naturally make a good fat chicory without being covered with six inches of sand or soil. Chicory roots from plants sown last May, lifted in October or November, are now yielding welcome chicons in boxes of peat in the cupboard under the stairs, a cellar, or under a bench in a warm greenhouse.

Unfortunately the firm that was selling the seed of these chicory varieties no longer stocks them. But the variety Normandy, which I forced quite happily from November until the spring, is now available from W. J. Unwin Ltd, Histon, Cambridge, price 25p a packet, postage, presumably 7 or 9p extra.

This is the time of year when any flowers in the garden are so welcome. For three or four weeks we have been able to pick a few blooms of *Iris unguicularis* (I. stylata) from a sheltered bed nesting against the south-facing wall of the house.

Now too the pink flowers of *Viburnum farreri*, more commonly known as *F. fragrans*, are bravely carrying on a show. It began in early November and will no doubt go on until March. It does not last all that long in water but as it benefits from light pruning, there is no reason why we should not help ourselves to a succession of flowering twigs in the winter and early spring.

The autumn cherry, *Prunus subhirtella autumnalis* too has been flowering since October. The flowers are rather singed by frost but new blossoms appear quite quickly and keep the tree attractive. The bluish pink form "Rosae" is certainly, to me, more attractive than the white flowered variety and I wonder why it has never received more than the award of merit from the Royal Horticultural Society whereas its white counterpart has had the much more important award of garden merit and the top accolade, the first class certificate, which of course it richly deserves.

The Royal National Rose Society has just issued the results of its 1977 trial of new roses. The President's inter-

national medal were awarded to "Silver Jubilee", a coppery salmon pink hybrid tea rose. Very vigorous, bushy, slightly fragrant with a full complement of 30-40 petals.

It has a curious parentage in which such famous varieties as "Parkdirektor Riggers", "Piccadilly", "Highlight", "Colour Wonder" and "Mischief" all played a part. It was raised by Mr Alec Cocker of Aberdeen, who died last month without knowing that for the second time in seven years he had won this coveted award. His first success was in 1970 with that splendid hybrid tea variety "Alec's Red".

The Rose of Torridge Silver for the best new variety raised by an amateur was awarded to "Butterfly Wings", a shrub rose with lovely ivory-white flowers tipped with carmine. It was raised by Mr David Goble of Balham in London, who with very limited facilities has been breeding new roses for many years.

A certificate of merit was awarded to a floribunda rose as yet unnamed, pink with a white eye from Sam McGredy Roses International.

Trial ground certificates were awarded to no fewer than 10 new roses. Those which have already been named are "English Miss", a floribunda, silver-pink edged deep pink, from Canis of Colchester Ltd; "Memento" floribunda, cerise pink, with a carmine reverse; "Tolkien" HT, pale yellow edged orange pink, from Dickson Nurseries Ltd, Northern Ireland; "Judy Garland", floribunda, deep yellow, edged orange; "Margaret Merrill" floribunda—hybrid tea type, white, very fragrant; "Marjorie Fair", a shrub rose, carmine with a silver eye, this variety also won the first prize in the International Rose Trials in Denmark, and "Mrs Walter Burns", a dwarf floribunda carmine edged silver with 106 small petals, all raised by R. Harkness and Co Ltd; "Warrior", floribunda, scarlet raised by E. B. Le Grice Ltd; "Moana", a miniature rose deep coral pink, and "Macgem" (subject to naming) from Sam McGredy International, New Zealand.

Roy Hay



Travel

Move for the disabled

Some time ago I was taken gently to task by the representative of a worthy charitable organization who made the mistake (as so many do) of assuming that I am some kind of commercial extension to the travel industry.

He wanted to know why that industry, and particularly the tour companies, did not do more for the disabled. He felt, rightly, that they are just as entitled—maybe more entitled—to a holiday and a refreshing change from the routine of their lives, but that the tour operators did not respond to their special needs.

Having long studied the subject of holidays for the disabled, I was able to give him some information and learnt only last week that, acting upon it, he has made some specific holiday arrangements for his "clients" in 1978. I also learnt last week that the mobility allowance paid to the disabled is to be raised from next July. As this allowance is being increasingly used for the purchase of holidays, I thought a few words on the subject would not come amiss.

The first thing to remember—and the point so many organizations overlook—is that tour companies are in business to make money. (Tour companies themselves have in the past seemed to overlook that very point, but that is another story. They are unlikely therefore to set aside all commercial considerations, as many charitable organizations would wish them to do.)

"We can make special arrangements for disabled holidaymakers, and are pleased to do so," I was told by one tour company. "But the reason we do not take many disabled people is that the vast majority cannot afford our holidays, especially in the high season."

Such a comment would never, of course, be made "on the record" but it does acknowledge that the greatest handicap is a financial one. Or, rather, it has been.

Research carried out by the Spastics Society has shown that the most popular holiday in its 1977 programme was the most expensive—a week to an hotel in Rome for £140. The same holiday is included in the society's 1978 programme, at

£149, and looks like being the best seller again.

Mr Bill Hargreaves, who is head of the society's recreational services department, reckons that for disabled holidaymakers money is no longer the sole criterion. The mobility allowances are being used as the allowance is to go up to £10 a week next July, more money will be available for such purchases.

I met Mr Hargreaves at the recent launch of Pickfords programme of overseas holidays for the disabled—a winter series of one and two week deals to the Hotel Imperial at Siemsa in Malta and the hotels Los Mirlos and Los Tordos at Magaluf, Mallorca.

At the moment the cost of two weeks to Malta is £297 and two weeks to Magaluf is £151.90, with the programme running through to the end of March. There are plans for another series in winter 1978/79, and Pickfords also offer an information and advice service to potential organizers.

I certainly welcome the Pickfords initiative in offering special arrangements. When you consider that there are over 3,000,000 disabled people in Britain, such a move is long overdue.

As for the Spastics Society's efforts, I know that a holiday to Benidorm is being planned in February (as a result of an approach from Thomson Holidays) a trip to Holland in April and one to Calles on the Costa Brava.

As well as the week in Rome I mentioned, there are holidays in Britain and the programme ends with trips to Spain, Mallorca and Oxford. You may obtain complete details from the Spastics Society at 12 Park Crescent, London, W1N 4EQ, although the holiday programme is a modest one and likely to be fully subscribed. However, I imagine that any volume of inquiries from individuals or from the organizers of holidays for the disabled—would encourage the society to expand its useful work.

What particularly bowled me over, incidentally, was Mr Hargreaves's casual mention of the winter sports holiday that was organized for a group of members last March. Most of

them tackled the ski slopes of San Valentino in Italy and so successful was the week that another is planned for March, 1978, to Caspoggio.

As an example of overcoming the barriers of disability, that holiday takes some bearing, though Mr Brian Stead of Northampton broke those barriers early this year. A victim of multiple sclerosis, he took time off from his job with the local electricity board and travelled to Jamaica, Mexico, Fiji and New Zealand, accompanied by his elderly father. He is presently writing a book about the journey.

The many societies which have been formed to assist people suffering from particular disabilities—such as the Spastics Society, the British Epilepsy Association, the British Feline Fellowship—are able to advise about holidays at home and abroad, and sometimes even organize such holidays. An approach to such a society is usually the best first step.

I would also advise—as I have in the past—the purchase of *Holidays for the Physically Handicapped*, the 1978 edition of which should be published at the end of this month. It costs 75p from W. H. Smith or other large book stores and is produced by the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation at 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB.

Another useful publication, and a free one, is the pamphlet issued by the Airline Users' Committee (Space House, 43-53 Kingsway, London WC2E 8TE). *Care in the Air* which gives advice for disabled passengers. It would certainly have helped the reader from Sheffield who was told on a charter flight to Spain that disabled people were "not allowed by law" to occupy the seats with extra leg room near the exits.

The pamphlet clearly advises those with special needs to tell the airline in advance if they want a seat in a particular position "such as one on the aisle, near the toilets or with extra leg room". A travel agent's explanation to the Sheffield reader that the advice only applied to scheduled service flights is as fatuous as it is feeble.

If you suffer from any disability, or if you are in a position to organize holidays for the disabled, I trust your arrangements for 1978 will proceed with no great problems. If I can help by putting you in touch with suitable organizations, then I shall be pleased to do so.

John Carter

Callela on the Costa Brava: holiday plan by the Spastics Society



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ARGENTINA'S CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

The recent abduction of two French nuns in Argentina, and the representations made by the French Embassy in Buenos Aires, are one more reminder that the cycle of violence continues in that country. The assumption is that, like thousands of other people, the nuns were taken off by people acting under the auspices of the military Government. It is also likely that unless action is taken to locate them quickly, they will join the long list of those who have disappeared without trace over the past two years. The incident can only serve to tarnish the reputation of the Argentine Government still further, and set back its attempts to obtain greater international sympathy for its predicament.

The fact of the matter is that military repression has been as harsh in Argentina as in any other Latin American country, and that the justification for it—the need to counter the subversion of terrorist groups—does not excuse the excesses that have been committed.

There is no question that the armed forces faced an appalling situation when they took power in March 1976, with an economy on the brink of collapse and terrorist groups that were well organised, well financed, and ruthless. It is also true that these groups are still active today, though on a reduced scale. There are still incidents in which bombs are exploded, or the executives of private companies are attacked by gunmen. But the armed forces are now reaping the fruits of a deliberately chosen policy which involved putting themselves on a level

with the terrorists and using terrorist methods against them, regardless of the cost to innocent people caught up in the struggle. This policy has involved setting up small counter-terrorist groups in the civilian population, instructed to act with a certain autonomy. It has also involved a ruthless approach to the collection of intelligence, in which large numbers of people have been taken off for questioning, often for no better reason than that their names may have appeared in someone else's address book. Many of these people will have had little information that can have been of use to their questioners, but the procedure was felt to be justified for whatever it produced. Most serious of all, the intelligence gathering operation has been conducted outside the law, with no information being given to relations on what had happened, and blank statements of ignorance by officials who were approached by them.

The aim of the military authorities was to have a ruthless, but ultimately efficient, method of eliminating terrorists, by removing not only them but any possible sympathizers from circulation. This was a war, they considered, and in war it is not possible to be too scrupulous about methods. The trouble was that in the event the campaign became more like a civil war than a war, and that, as in all civil wars, the situation got out of hand. It has proved difficult to control the various groups which had been given their marching orders, especially as they had been told they need not

worry about the law. The result has been abduction by such groups of personal enemies of people regarded as too leftist, and even of relatives who are too persistent in asking questions about those who have disappeared.

There can be little doubt that there are members of the Argentine military Government who deplore such incidents as the abduction of the two French nuns. They take some pride in the other achievements since they took power—in the fact that they have pulled the country out of the worst of its economic crisis, and that businessmen, diplomats and others no longer have to go in constant fear of kidnapping or murder. President Videla has himself undertaken to try to curb the excesses, and there has been a certain reduction in the number of disappearances. But his power is limited by disagreements among the various parts of the armed forces, where there are many who believe that a hard line should be continued, and others who oppose him in a simple contest for power.

Argentina is a large and complex country which has been in a state of turbulence for many years. The question now is whether it will be able to heal the wounds that have been inflicted in the virtual civil war of the last few years. If it can, it can take advantage of its enormous economic potential and resume the growth which it should have been enjoying all this time. But to do that, it will have to stop the cycle of violence and return to legality.

NO RISE SINCE 1972: AND NOW 5 PER CENT

Mr Callaghan's decision on pay increases for nationalised industry chairmen and board members is the culmination of bungling and ineptitude of the first order. It is a timing—24 hours before the Christmas sales—of no prior consultation with or warning to those concerned—is scandalous.

In 1974, the independent review body on top salaries, chaired by Lord Boyle of Handsworth, recommended substantial increases for state industry board members and for senior officials in the public service, the armed forces and the judiciary. The Government allowed half the increases recommended for all except the industrialised industry chairmen and board members. The then Prime Minister, Sir Harold Wilson, with his eye on the social contract, postponed a decision on the state industries until such time as he had seen and studied the findings of the Royal Commission on Income Distribution and Wealth.

Sir Harold accepted the review body's findings that the chairmen and board members of nationalised industries were

earning substantially lower salaries than their counterparts in private industry. But, he argued, the social justification for some of the very high incomes paid in private industry would be questionable, whatever the economic circumstances of the country. With the whole country tightening its belt, those who were most highly paid should accept the need for extreme restraint. The royal commission's findings on this matter have come and gone, and nothing has been done, until this week, about the salaries of those who run the nationalised industries. Mr Callaghan has re-stated the Government's belief that these people's salaries are significantly out of line with those of their counterparts elsewhere, but he has chosen, like his predecessor, to take a harsh line, presumably *pour encourager les autres*.

The salary scales of those who head the nationalised industries or sit on their boards as full time members have remained virtually unchanged since 1972. This means that many of them have seen their real income halved in that period. The Government

now proposes that those earning more than £13,000 a year should get a 5 per cent increase and that those below that figure should get a 10 per cent increase. This formula is an insult to men who are devoting their life to public service. Had Mr Callaghan awarded 10 per cent across the board it might still have seemed harsh—particularly since the Boyle report pre-dated the present series of incomes policies—but it would at least have had the merit of being rough justice applied with some semblance of equity.

The Government may live to regret its decision. First, by this action, it will forfeit the trust of the men and women on whom it relies to run the state sector of industry wisely and efficiently; secondly, it may well lose, through resignations, people whose skills will not be easily replaced; thirdly, it may find that the general public, far from being impressed by the Government's resolve to discriminate against the higher paid, may in fact see it as a shabby example of the politics of envy.

BRITTLE UNITY

The Eoka-B kidnappers in Cyprus who seized Achilles Kyriakou, the son of the President, on Wednesday threatened to kill him unless their blanket demand for the release of all persons detained on the island for any political reason was met. In effect this meant those members of their organization involved in the short-lived coup of 1974 and such of their underground sympathizers as were also held in detention. Already the threat to kill Lieutenant Kyriakou has been twice postponed, and stands to be carried out this evening. As usual with such terrorists the signs of vacillation and weakness are accumulating.

These signs have been dramatically underlined by a plea issued from his prison cell by Mr Nicos Sampson, the eight-day figurehead of the 1974 coup, who has disowned the kidnappers and pleads for the release of the hostage. At the same time an appeal for unity among Greek Cypriots

OF THE GREEK CYPRIOTS

has been issued by Mr Glafkos Clerides, who was the single opponent of President Kyriakou in the election due on February 5 but who has now withdrawn as a gesture of unity. He referred to the hideous crime of the abduction and urged that the already tense atmosphere should not be aggravated. This leaves very little force behind the bluff of the kidnappers since their cause has been visibly weakened by their action and can only be damaged further if they carry out their threat.

Yet the divisions within Cyprus are not likely to be healed while those within Greece itself persist. Ever since the death of President Makarios the Greek Cypriot unity in face of Turkey and in face of pressure from Athens has become more brittle. As acting President, Mr Kyriakou has held to the view that the best hope for any settlement for Cyprus lay in cooperation with President Carter's chosen medi-

ator Mr Clark Clifford. But hopes in that source for a solution have lately been weakening for lack of American pressure on the Turks strong enough to exact concessions. Coupled with this, last month's Greek elections saw Mr Andreas Papandreu's opposition party make considerable inroads into Mr Karamanlis's majority. This was on a platform rejecting Nato, opting for neutralism and adopting a stronger line against Turkey than Mr Karamanlis was willing to take.

If the continued refusal to meet the kidnappers' demands brings the release of Achilles Kyriakou, the Greek Cypriots may justifiably feel strengthened but the Greeks may not be able to give them the right backing when Mr Karamanlis's preference for American mediation is opposed by Mr Papandreu's desire to make Cyprus an international problem, to be exposed in the forum of the United Nations.

Future of nuclear power

From Mr Derrick Streeton
Sir, Referring to Mr D. R. Berridge's letter (December 6) it must be said that compared to reactors of proven design, the effect of sea water contamination in an Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (AGR) is much more pronounced and far more costly to rectify.

The sheer complexity of the AGR and its distinct disadvantages in terms of access for inspection and maintenance makes one wonder what other problems will arise in future. It is for this reason that the Hunterston incident cannot be disregarded in the current decision making on reactor choice.

It is now twelve years since the implementation of the AGR programme and after all this time this reactor remains unproven. The cost to the consumer has been enormous, and it appears that this recent incident will add several millions, if not tens of millions, to the massive burden.

It is really quite staggering to find that the Steam Generating Heat Exchanger (SGHE) and the Diffuser, with the AGR, some continue to scrape the barrel to find excuses for not accepting the inevitable—the Pressurized Water Reactor. It would be wholly wrong to spend millions more of the taxpayer's money to "prove" what has been evident for years about the shortcomings of the AGR. It is about time that Parliament de-

manded real accountability. If those in the industry who advocate any particular reactor type are willing to back their cause with something more than their reputation, then we might see some realism applied. Finally, referring again to Mr Berridge's letter, it is mentioned the incident reveals no design weakness. I find this statement difficult to understand for it implies that there is no need to improve upon the Hunterston design. As a result of maloperation in any plant it is used to overcome such problems by design improvements. If this possibility does not exist at Hunterston, one wonders what can be done. Yours faithfully,
DERICK STREETON,
39 Leasway,
Westcliff-on-Sea,
Essex.
December 8.

Bermuda executions

From Mr Michael Stewart, CH, MP for Fulham (Labour)
Sir, In his letter in *The Times* of December 10, Lord Thurlow, the former Governor of the Bahamas, quotes the Naira case in the Bahamas in 1969-70 as evidence that the Secretary of State could have intervened to stop the recent executions in Bermuda. Rupert Ezra Naira was condemned to death in 1968 for the murder of a prison officer in the Bahamas. He

petitioned the Queen for clemency and, in considering the advice I should tender to Her Majesty, I came to the conclusion that to execute Naira might be a miscarriage of justice. I based this conclusion on the evidence of Naira's mental state which was such that had he been tried in the United Kingdom (prior to the abolition of capital punishment) he would probably not have been condemned to death, on account of diminished responsibility. Initially, the Governor and his local Ministers could not be persuaded to accept that Naira should be reprieved on these grounds. However, the Governor later agreed to grant a reprieve on humanitarian grounds because of the long delay in carrying out the sentence.

Lord Thurlow is thus mistaken in claiming that the Naira case was a breach of Crech Jones. To begin with, the decision to reprieve was technically, taken by the Governor, acting on the advice of his Privy Council of Mercy Committee. But even if it is accepted that the Secretary of State intervened, this was done on the grounds that there was reason to believe that a miscarriage of justice would take place if the execution went ahead. The action was therefore fully in accordance with the Crech Jones doctrine. Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL STEWART,
House of Commons.
December 15.

Activities of the Unification Church

From Mr H. A. C. Masters
Sir, I refer to the extremely biased article in *The Times* (December 12) concerning the Unification Church. Although the article is full of twisted half truths, and is clearly an attack on Christianity and the principles of a free society, I cannot let it pass without pointing out a blatant misrepresentation of fact as is reported to have been contained in a letter from Mr Finlayson to the Home Secretary.

Mr Finlayson claims that Mr Jeeves was evicted from his family house because he would not give up his Christian principles. To put the picture straight, Mr Jeeves was employed by me as farm manager until December, 1975, when the ownership of the farm changed hands. The Community, who then had the management of the farm, then offered Mr Jeeves the opportunity to work in an advisory capacity for a trial period of six months. At the end of the period it was clear that his unfriendly attitude towards the members of the Community made any idea of working together quite impracticable. The arrangement was therefore terminated and he received over £1,200 redundancy payment.

Because of his father's age Mr Jeeves was permitted to remain in the farm house rent free until his father's death a year later. It was quite unreasonable for him to continue to live alone in a large farm house while others, including married couples with a family, were obliged to live in cramped conditions. He was therefore offered an alternative smaller house, which my wife and I had at one time considered retiring to ourselves. Mr Jeeves stubbornly refused to move, the Community took the matter to court and the court ruled that he should leave.

Whatsoever Desmond Jeeves's Christian principles may be, he is free to hold them in this free society—like the rest of us—however revered this may be to the author of the article.

It is to be hoped that the growing tendency for emerging politicians to knock at religion and the principles of our free society for personal political gain will receive its just reward.

Yours faithfully,
H. A. C. MASTERS,
Unification Church,
43-44 Lancaster Gate, W2.
December 13.

From the Reverend Eric Inglesby
Sir, The success of the Unification Church is a measure of the failure of the Christian Churches, the Church of England in particular. As a priest recently on the staff of Plymouth's City Church I made it my business to meet the "Moon Sect" and found them hospitable and sincere. Their aim is to be guided about Christ and the Bible, their strength lies in the recognition that young people need the

warm spiritual companionship of small groups.

These days strictly denominational fellowships do not fill the bill, young people have labels, but the Churches, by and large, cannot and will not tolerate small interdenominational fellowships for fear of forming splinter groups. The authorities of every Church, in fact, are more concerned with saving structures than saving souls, and until there is genuine Christian Unity at the grass roots, perniculous and heretical sects will continue to flourish: the spurious "Unification Church" in particular.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC INGLESBY,
Spring Cottage,
West End Gardens,
Fairford,
Gloucestershire.
December 12.

From Mrs W. P. Baddeley
Sir, I am prompted by your articles in the Unification Church to send you the following excerpts from Mr Moon's speeches to his inner circle as reported in the magazine *Time* in June of last year. These make clear his curious vision of himself and his cult, and should be of interest to parents and others concerned with the welfare of young people.

"Moon on Moon: 'He (God) is living in me, and am the living God of this world. The whole world is in my hand, and I will conquer and subjugate the world.'"

"Moonism v Christianity: 'God is now throwing Christianity away and is now establishing a new religion, and this new religion is Unification Church. All Christians in the world are destined to be absorbed by our movement. There have been saints, prophets, and many religious leaders... in past human history. I am doing it now more than any of these people and greater than Jesus Christ himself.'"

"Obeying Moon: 'I am a thinker. I am your brain. When you join the effort with me you can do everything in your obedience to me. Because what I am doing is not done at random but what I am doing is under God's command.'"

"Life with Father Moon: 'You must start over again your new life, from that point denying your past family, friends, and all your relatives. You must keep yourselves pure. If you may be stained in some way or another it is better for you to kill yourselves than to remain alive. On restoring man from evil, sovereignty we must cheat.'"

"Future Plans: 'Once our movement arouses the interest of the people in a nation through the mass media it will spread throughout the world. For that purpose I chose the US. The present UN must be annihilated by our opposition. That is the stage for the Communists. We must make a new UN. If the US continues its corruption and we find among

the Senators and Congressmen no one really suitable for our purposes we can make Senators and Congressmen out of our members... I have met many famous, so-called famous, Senators and Congressmen but to my eyes they are but nothing. They are weak and helpless. We will win the battle. This is our dream, our project. But shut your mouth tight.'"

(*Time*, 14 June, 1976)
Yours faithfully,
M. F. S. BADDELEY,
397 Piccadilly, W1.
December 14.

From Mrs Alison Farrow

Sir, It is a trend of cheap journalism and television reporting in recent years for only one side (the most sensational) to be presented, but I never thought to see *The Times* sink so low. The sensational article on the "Moon Cult" was quite incredible and biased to a degree of total untruth.

Your reporter at one of the group's week-ends had several long conversations with me, and she struck me as being very fair minded. Therefore your sub-editing has done exactly what it would accuse the Unification Church of doing by deleting anything she reported in favour. She met several of the "children" (every member is an adult over 18) and parents who were in favour of their membership, and also took a long interview by phone with me in which I confirmed that I was totally in favour of my son doing his own thing. I have never made it a secret that I do not go along with several facets of the Unification Church, yet unlike your horrendous reporting my son has never been restricted from phoning, writing or visiting me. But of course good news is not saleable. For the record my son joined the UC three years back and has been totally happy and quite normal ever since. I may not agree with some of the principles therein, but my son is an adult, he must be free to make his own decisions and also to abide by them. I would rather have him associating with the other clean decent living young people, than dabbling in drugs/porn/demos. None of these young folk are a charge on the state, neither are they indulging in homosexuality and vandalism. Please have the guts to publish the other side because for the sake of sensationalism your one sided account puts journalism in disrepute.

Yours sincerely,
ALISON FARROW,
2 Holland Close,
Fairfield Village,
Exeter.
December 12.

"We did in fact print favourable comments from Mrs Farrow on the Unification Church on December 14.

The fate of the Lib-Lab pact

From Mr Richard Lamb

Sir, How right your leader today (December 15) is in saying that the Liberals ought not to denounce the pact on the issue of the method of elections to the European Parliament!

Important as it is to dedicated Liberals, it is a peripheral issue as far as the majority of the voters are concerned and Mr Callaghan had given no specific assurance on this point when the pact was made.

David Steel's great mistake was to agree to a pact which did not contain strong specific assurances from the Prime Minister about inflation. For the Liberals to get any electoral kudos out of the arrangement they needed to spotlight that their influence on the Government had kept prices down.

David Steel should now demand as a condition for continuing the pact that the Government stick to their guns over the 10 per cent increase in earnings guide lines, and that statutory powers are taken urgently to deal with firms in the private sector who make bogus productivity deals or otherwise breach the pay limit. Experts now estimate on evidence already available that wage inflation will run at 17 per cent next year because of the Government's weakness over Ford and other flagrant breaches of the Pay Code, and from so many productivity deals not being self-financing.

The Liberals have been in a strong position because the last thing the Government want is a General Election before the April Budget, and David Steel should demand not only a tougher policy over wages but also an assurance that our North Sea oil revenue next year will be used for income tax cuts to boost the economy and not frittered away on the projects asked for by the Tribune Group and the left-wing members of the Cabinet. If David Steel now obtained an agreement in writing from the Prime Minister which proved incontrovertibly that Liberal influence had put a stop to the current wage explosion and that a Liberal policy to use North Sea oil revenue for income tax cuts was being implemented, he would not only have acted in the national interest but also greatly improved Liberal chances in the coming General Election.

Yours truly,
RICHARD LAMB,
Knighton Manor,
Broadchurch,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire.
December 15.

King Canute

From Mrs Dorothy M. Davenport

Sir, I don't feel that James Clark (December 14) will have much success in trying to renege King Canute's good name. The popular misconceptions of history, like the events depicted on Kestrel's Grecian urn, are frozen static for ever. Some years back I protested to your crossword compiler that Frankenstein was a Roman name, a mistake to be told that he was now a monster by accepted usage. I have often read complaints by satirists that however obvious their sarcasm someone will take them seriously and Canute would seem to be an early example of this.

However, it seems highly unlikely that this incident with the waves ever did take place and that more probably it is a later invention of Henry of Huntingdon, born about 1085. For an examination of this story and other immortal tales such as Alfred and the cakes, Blondel and his game of bowls, George Washington and the cherry tree, and Wellington riding to see Blücher on the eve of Waterloo, may I recommend the delightful pamphlet (no 30) by Robert Birley, late headmaster of Eton, called "The Undergrowth of History", published by the Historical Association in 1955 and reprinted in 1969.

Yours sincerely,
DOROTHY M. DAVENPORT,
68 First Avenue,
Gillingham,
Kent.

Packer case costs

From Mr D. W. Edwards

Sir, Now that the dust is settling around the Packer judgment may I invite some of your learned readers to explain to interested but uninformed bystanders like me how the legal costs of £250,000 are calculated. This seems a good opportunity to remove the mystification which usually surrounds such news items. Yours faithfully,
D. W. EDWARDS,
21 Princes Way,
Brentwood,
Essex.

The courteous gull

From Mrs Christopher Hull

Sir, I suspect that the lack of a rear gun turret is the cause of Mr Dawson's gull relinquishing its flag pole (December 7). I have noticed that the incoming gull with well poised, beak invariably approaches from the rear.

Yours sincerely,
CECILIA HULL,
44 High Street,
Wimbledon, SW19.

From Mr Michael A. E. Franklin

Sir, I was staying with friends in Jamaica who had about a dozen Peacocks in their garden. Every evening at sunset, I watched these heavy birds fly to their selected perches on the branches of an enormous tree.

First one would fly up to the lowest branch then after a pause for a few seconds fly to the next. Only when the lowest branch was vacated would a second bird fly up to it and so on by rotation up the tree. Never were two peacocks on the same branch at the same time (or it might have broken). At the end of this manoeuvre the whole flock was on the tree for the night, the first bird having reached the very top.

Your obedient servant,
MICHAEL FRANKLIN,
10 Blomfield Road,
Little Venice, W9.

are incapable, logically and operationally, of being a threat to the high officials of Rhodesia. The Marxist regimes in Mozambique and Angola, for instance, only maintain a shaky existence by reliance on their internal security forces. In a guerrilla war, the Rhodesian Army confidently keeps the upper hand as the recent mauling of the Mugebele guerrillas has shown.

The validity of the second premise—involvement of the Patriotic Front in a Rhodesian settlement—is equally dubious. The whole point of that settlement is that it should reflect the wishes of the majority in Rhodesia—a black government installed as the result of one man, one vote elections; to that end the moderate black nationalists—and now it seems Mr Smith—are pledged. But Mr Smith and Mr Nkomo remain dry of subscribing to free elections because they know

how little support they enjoy among the black Rhodesians. Indeed, between their respective excursions to Peking and Moscow—they are on record as saying that power in Rhodesia will only come through the "barrel of the gun"; power that will rest in a Marxist or socialist Zimbabwe.

It would follow, therefore, that the Patriotic Front has no automatic moral right to be involved in a Rhodesian settlement because, politically, it shows every intention of setting up a non-democratic Zimbabwe and, militarily, because after five years of fighting it remains a divided and ineffective fighting force.

Yours truly,
D. G. GALVIN,
Meadow Bank,
The Common,
Worcester,
Worcestershire.
Survey.

Changing police procedure

From Mr P. St John Howe

Sir, The Fisher Report on the Confront case points to difficulties arising out of existing police procedure and makes certain helpful recommendations.

Two other practices extensively used should also be exposed. Both are designed to put pressure on accused people to make statements. What happens is:
1. Arrests are made on Friday after the courts have closed and the accused is told that they will be kept in custody until Monday, he will be kept in custody until then, unless, of course, he makes a statement. He is reminded of the meal awaiting him at home, his wife and children, etc. The power of an inspector or senior ranking officer to release the accused on bail, is of course not mentioned, or used.

2. When the accused is brought to court, he is exposed to further enquiries are made "or for some other reason; but at the same time it is made perfectly plain to the accused that, if a statement admitting the offence is made, opposition to bail being granted, will be withdrawn at the next court appearance. It may well be imagined

what an incentive to make a statement it is when the accused learns that, if he is not granted bail because of police opposition, he faces a remand in custody for a period of five to six weeks. (The application to a judge in chambers, which takes time and money, may be no more successful if the police continue their opposition.)

It may appear odd to more robust (and better educated) people that an innocent person will make an admission of guilt in these circumstances. It is a later invention of Henry of Huntingdon, born about 1085. For an examination of this story and other immortal tales such as Alfred and the cakes, Blondel and his game of bowls, George Washington and the cherry tree, and Wellington riding to see Blücher on the eve of Waterloo, may I recommend the delightful pamphlet (no 30) by Robert Birley, late headmaster of Eton, called "The Undergrowth of History", published by the Historical Association in 1955 and reprinted in 1969.

Yours faithfully,
P. ST. JOHN HOWE,
Central Chambers,
St Thomas Street,
Weymouth,
Dorset.
December 14.

A school administrator

From Mr C. H. F. Broad

Sir, I was interested to note on page 2 of the issue of December 12, the statement that the symposium at a certain stage in the life of an administrative officer in a local authority education department, he could be appointed for a five-year term as administrator to a big school: such an appointment I imagine, would at a later stage serve as a serious qualification for promotion to the role of Director or assistant director of education.

From such a structure I am sure the academic and pastoral roles of a head of a school would benefit on the one hand and, on the other, there would be a much healthier and closer liaison between schools and those at county headquarters who administer them.

Yours faithfully,
C. H. F. BROAD,
Principal, Burleigh Community College,
Thorpe Hill,
Loughborough,
Leicestershire.
December 12.

master the need to be over-concerned with matters not directly educational. I believe such an office could be tied into the structure of educational administration, whereby at a certain stage in the life of an administrative officer in a local authority education department, he could be appointed for a five-year term as administrator to a big school: such an appointment I imagine, would at a later stage serve as a serious qualification for promotion to the role of Director or assistant director of education.

From such a structure I am sure the academic and pastoral roles of a head of a school would benefit on the one hand and, on the other, there would be a much healthier and closer liaison between schools and those at county headquarters who administer them.

Yours faithfully,
C. H. F. BROAD,
Principal, Burleigh Community College,
Thorpe Hill,
Loughborough,
Leicestershire.
December 12.

Mrs Lena Jeger is MP for Camden, Holborn and St Pancras South, and not as was incorrectly stated in these columns on Thursday.

A high-contrast, black and white photograph showing a group of men in light-colored uniforms and hats. One man in the center is crouching or lying on the ground, while others stand around him. The image is grainy and has a high level of contrast.

Sydney, Dec. 16.—David Hookes suffered a broken jaw to provide the first of the highlights in the world series cricket match between an Australian XI and a West Indies XI at the Sydney Cricket Ground when he took being hit for the fifth time in the week being 176 for five.

The crowd of 7,520, many of them children, was three times as great as on the opening day of the first match in Melbourne two weeks ago. But the fact that Hookes had a fracture of the jaw—was a bitter blow to Packer's Australian XI.

Hookes, aged 22, is expected to be out of action for six weeks after being struck by a bouncer from Roberts' unbeaten innings before the Australian XI was reduced to 251 all out, after being 89 for five. At close of play, the West Indians were 33 for six wickets in the first five overs.

Hookes and Marsh had put on 87 for the sixth wicket when, in the first over after ten Hookes was hit for the sixth time. He had to be stumped from this pitch.

West Indian captain, Clive Lloyd, had won the toss and opted

the Australians in on a "six wicket" which justified the decision to bat first. The decision was made by Garner, in place of Holford, a spin bowler.

The pool, taken tickets for 35 0/11 1/2 overs and Roberts, who put the Australians on the defensive from the start by dismissing Holford for 11, took the first ball of the match, ended with three for 48. Hookes was the only batsman to measure the speed of the ball, which he clocked at 60 m.p.h. over his hip four successive boundaries off Holford.

In the first three matches the series, there were queues outside the entrance gates. About 3,000 spectators saw the first ball bowled by Holford, and the first century of Sydney. The large number of children, with their chanting and clapping, which was highly organized, which was missing during the first match in the large stadium at Melbourne.

The first day's attendance figures. A total of 6,300 people had watched a world series night match in Melbourne, which included the total attendance of 7,520 who

about normal for what could be expected on the first day of a world series match in Sydney.

Although the crowd proved nearly double the figure of 3,950 who watched the first match in the second Test between Australia and India, it is difficult to draw conclusions from this comparison. Sydney is bigger, its times larger than Perth.

WEST INDIES XI First Innings

1. C. Brindley	bat	50
2. J. Garner	bat	50
3. J. Garner	bat	50
4. J. Garner	bat	50
5. J. Garner	bat	50
6. J. Garner	bat	50
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AUSTRALIAN XI First Innings

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TOTAL OF WICKETS 1. J. Garner 2. J. Garner 3. J. Garner 4. J. Garner 5. J. Garner 6

[illegible][illegible]

captain of Mashaka Mohammadiyoun, a 22-year-old Afghan-born player, was named by Peter Arnold, member of their committee and vice chairman, at a meeting in the night. Arnold said that Mohammadiyoun had been in the county squad for a long time but had not been selected to play for the county again. "Countries will be allowed only two overseas players next season and Northamptonshire decided to go for a player from Africa," he said. "I would like to see a player from Africa."

[illegible]

Livingston v Southend
 Nyth Spartans v Chesterfield (2.0)
 Carlisle v Chester
 Crewe v Scarborough
 Gillingham v Peterboro
 Grimsby v Barnsley
 Hartlepool v Runcorn
 Middlesbrough v Exeter
 Northampton v Enfield
 Nuneaton v Telford
 Plymouth v Cambridge Utd
 Portsmouth v Swansea
 Preston v Wrexham
 Rotherham v Spennymoor
 Shrewsbury v Stockport
 Swindon v Brentford
 Walsall v Port Vale
 Watford v Colchester
 Weymouth v Reading
 Wigan Ath v Sheffield W

Brechin v Falkirk
 Burntisland v Berwick (2.0)
 CSS v Gelfrick (2.0)
 Dumfrieshire v Clyde
 Caedonian v Inverness Th
 Raith v Stenhousemuir
Scottish premier division
 Clydebank v Ayr
 Dundee Utd v Partick Th
 Elgin City v Aberdeen
 Rangers v Motherwell
 St Mirren v Celtic
Scottish first division
 Airdrie v Hearts
 East Fife v Dundee
 Hamilton v Dumbarton
 Kilmarnock v Alloa
 Morton v Arbroath
 St Johnstone v Queen of S
 Stirling Alb v Montrose

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE

Brechin v Falkirk
 Burntisland v Berwick (2.0)
 CSS v Selkirk (2.0)
 Dumfriemline v Clyde
 Caledonian v Inverness Th
 Raith v Stenhousemuir
Scottish premier division
 Clydebank v Ayr
 Dundee Utd v Partick Th
 Hibernian v Aberdeen
 Rangers v Motherwell
 St. Mirren v Celtic
Scottish first division
 Airdrie v Hearts
 East Fife v Dundee
 Hamilton v Dunbarton
 Kilmarnock v Airdrie
 Morton v Arbroath
 St Johnstone v Queen of S
Stirling Alb v Montrose
 NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE

Inter-divisional Final
 1st Division v North (at Twickenham, 11.12.16.)

Inter-divisional Play-off
 1st Division v South & West (at Twickenham, 11.12.16.)

Welsh Cup Second round
 1st Division v South Wales (13.12.)
 2nd Division v Cross Keys (13.12.)
 3rd Division v Newport (13.12.)
 4th Division v New Dock Stars (2.00.1.)
 5th Division v Cardiff (2.00.1.)
 6th Division v Glamorgan (2.30.2.)
 7th Division v Carmarthen (2.30.2.)
 8th Division v Carmarthen (2.30.2.)
 9th Division v Carmarthen (2.30.2.)
 10th Division v Carmarthen (2.30.2.)
 11th Division v Carmarthen (2.30.2.)
 12th Division v Carmarthen (2.30.2.)
 13th Division v Carmarthen (2.30.2.)
 14th Division v Carmarthen (2.30.2.)
 15th Division v Carmarthen (2.30.2.)
 16th Division v Carmarthen (2.30.2.)
 17th Division v Carmarthen (2.30.2.)
 18th Division v Carmarthen (2.30.2.)
 19th Division v Carmarthen (2.30.2.)
 20th Division v Carmarthen (2.30.2.)

Cup Matches
 1st Division v Reading Park (2.30.2.)
 2nd Division v Reading Park (2.30.2.)
 3rd Division v Reading Park (2.30.2.)
 4th Division v Reading Park (2.30.2.)
 5th Division v Reading Park (2.30.2.)
 6th Division v Reading Park (2.30.2.)
 7th Division v Reading Park (2.30.2.)
 8th Division v Reading Park (2.30.2.)
 9th Division v Reading Park (2.30.2.)
 10th Division v Reading Park (2.30.2.)
 11th Division v Reading Park (2.30.2.)
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 14th Division v Reading Park (2.30.2.)
 15th Division v Reading Park (2.30.2.)
 16th Division v Reading Park (2.30.2.)
 17th Division v Reading Park (2.30.2.)
 18th Division v Reading Park (2.30.2.)
 19th Division v Reading Park (2.30.2.)
 20th Division v Reading Park (2.30.2.)

[illegible]

Rugby union
Arch: Plymouth Arden v
 Rosslin Park (2.30).
Rugby league
FIRST DIVISION: Dewsbury v
 Wigan (3.30); Featherston Hatters v
 Bradford (3.30); Hull Kingston Rovers
 v St Helens (2.45); New Rungby v
 Wakefield (3.30); Wakefield Trinity
 v Wakefield Trinity (3.30); Wakefield Trinity
 v Wakefield Trinity (3.30); Wakefield Trinity
 v Wakefield Trinity (3.30).
SECOND DIVISION: Batley v Ruyton
 (2.30); Batley v Ruyton (2.30); Batley
 v Ruyton (2.30); Batley v Ruyton
 (2.30).
Hockey.
NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP:
 1st Round: 1st Round: 1st Round: 1st
 George's v Nelson (at Newcastle,
 2.0).

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

With most first and second division clubs playing five matches within the next fortnight, the question of fitness is particularly pertinent to some notably Manchester United, injuries seem especially debilitating, and even Liverpool have felt a twinge or two on these winter days that are so cold and blustering.

Rome in May when they became European champions.

Nottingham Forest, having brought a fresh challenge to the club, and the doctor who has escaped almost to the season's half-way point without too many disruptions. And when their star-centre half, Lloyd, broke a leg in the match at Saturday, the manager, Brian Clough, immediately spent £140,000 on Needham, a replacement from Queen's Park Rangers who plays his first match and will be expected at Old Trafford this afternoon.

There is no reason to think that the alteration will change the pattern of the team, although the loss of Lloyd certainly was crucial to their ability to withstand the pressure from more skillful attacks than they met last season. Lloyd was replaced by his assistant, Peter Taylor, as yet unsatisfied. Mr Taylor said:

"We have never had a settled squad, and we are likely to be at different clubs. That would be an unattainable Utopia."

Today's meeting of Forest and United will also be a marching of managerial wits between Mr Clough and Dave Sexton. Both were among the candidates for the job of manager at the old Greenwood, and despite the fact they were turned away it was not without some words of encouragement. Their clubs were given a special mention when Mr Green was asked to take the more vituperous spirit, spreading through the League. It is expected that Mr Sexton will continue his successful record of a clean sheet in last year's under-21 side and Mr Clough may find a challenge in watching over the youth team.

As to the game at hand, Manchester United are able to announce that the strongest team will be sent to face the visitors. Buchan, Buxton and McIlroy have all recovered from injuries. Mr Sexton, who is not given to boastfulness, said: "If we can get a regular team to play, we shall be on our feet. We can still be among the fittest chasers this season." First they have to make up 12 players on the bench, and then they have to keep ahead of Everton, a task behind.

Everton's marvellous sequence of non-defeat makes it a tremendous task to the value of maintaining a winning team. McKenzie, undoubtedly one of the cleverest players in the League, is expected to be twisted back into the side and for the game at Birmingham today will not be the season's choice of substitutes.

Another talented player left on the sidelines late is Jordan, the Leeds United forward, who has been fingering his ribs for days while Ajax, of Amsterdam, negotiated for a transfer. Jordan is not included against City at Elland Road and his rehabilitation is available.

City more openly than any other team in the night they were training because of stomachic strain and recovered from a head cold kept him in hospital last week.

Forest's rapid transfer and Everton's continued absence from the league may change could allow them to move even further ahead in the chasing group of five. Everton will be 12 points behind the punts, but they have rearranged the team to Queen's Park Rangers as Smith and Higginson have been released because of a stomachic ailment. Howe, bought from Fulham, is his first appearance since his return from a long absence will be weakened by James who was hurt while for Wales in West Germany.

After quietly climbing the table of the first division, the Bristol City side has suffered in spending £30,000, who had been on the verge of a transfer. A serious injury but kept at Derby County, it is expected that McFarlane, only 20, will be a valuable hamstring trouble, his heavy-weight contest, an interesting match.

Steven Postman put goals on the board in the second round at FA Cup today. The 26 between Nuneaton and Tilbury makes sure that at least one non-league team will go through but while others will be playing for the glory of meeting a first or second division side in the next round.

Northerly credentials

The Belfast, the Irishman League leaders, who travel to Northampton. Their manager, Ted Hardy, a market porter, has led his team to an unbeaten run of six games including a 3-0 victory over Wimbledon in the first round.

He said: "We have a very experienced side and this is our big chance. We will play our best and try to change just for once."

The Northampton pitch should suit us." The man Northampton will have to watch is Best, a potman, who has scored 27 goals this season.

Meanwhile, of the Southern League, await the visit of Exeter City. Quiet confidence. They will be cheered on by 450 instead of their usual 450 spectators and their manager, Bob Boyd, said: "We're no strangers to the Cup. We have a tradition that most small clubs and Exeter must be more worried than we are."

Meanwhile's striker, Welch, is fit. Best and has scored 11 every cup game in which he has played the last two years.

Chances

Manager of Middlesbrough, secret of his dislike of death in cup football, leading Sheffield Wednesday to Wigan, who expect the biggest attendance in the second round—15,000. Who will see the Wigan goalkeepers, also, the 26-year-old defender, his chance.

Yesterday's football

Third division

Reading 1-1	Derby 1-0
Sheff. Wed. 1-0	Sheff. Mon. 1-0
Millwall 1-0	Blackburn 1-0
Sheff. Wed. 1-0	Sheff. Mon. 1-0
Sheff. Wed. 1-0	Sheff. Mon. 1-0

[illegible]

Representative English rugby players in the 1950s in Europe. Further than France next year, for the first time England B will play two matches in Rome in the autumn and the Japanese will play the full Netherlands XV in a match at Hilversum, provided the Japanese visit will be England's first matches at B level, which are restricted to players who are not world class. Under-23 fixtures is to mark the opening of a new Dutch national stadium. England's under-23 will play the Netherlands XV at Wiltshire on April 12 next year.

The full England national side will play the Japanese in London and will also visit Tonga and Fiji on a Far Eastern tour in the autumn. The Japanese team will subsidize this, the cost of the Tongan and Fijian visit and the rest will come from a form of lottery.

And all these touring plans for the All-Ireland Rugby Football Union will be approved by the Four Home Unions Committee whether or not next season's tour to the British Isles by the English and Welsh is decided. "We have been promised a decision not later than the end of this year," said Sir Anthony, the RFU president, said. "The sooner the better as far as we are concerned because we want to plan ahead," he added.

With a twinkle in his eye Sir Anthony disclosed that the RFU had been considering the British League clubs by obtaining the G.L.C.'s Certificate No 001 for Twickenham under the new safety regulations. "If the RFU had spent about £80,000 on ground improvements and, contrary to the opinion of the G.L.C., Twickenham's capacity had increased from 68,500 to 97,740; still on the same site, the ground would already £300,000 had had to be returned to unsuccessful ticket applicants for this winter's international matches with Wales and Ireland.

For the first time the RFU are to send a team to tour New Zealand under their auspices. Bill Freeman, the national New Zealand representative, will visit a number of English counties between January 26 and February 19. It will be left to each county to decide whether to send a coaching clinic but Mr Freeman has been asked to concentrate on the principles of rucking, the way back to forward, scrumming and the techniques of half-back play and particularly, scrum-half passing skills.

The invitation to Mr Freeman arose from the visit this year to New Zealand by Don Rutherford, the RFU's technical administrator. He was accompanied by a lot from the New Zealand coach.

Sir Anthony said. The RFU are also planning pilot schemes to help youth rugby in the Avon and Birmingham areas which, if they prove successful, will be introduced elsewhere in the future.

By Sydney Frislin

Slough's position at the top of the London Hockey League, with a percentage of 87.50, seems unlikely to be lost today unless new ice in twelfth position, an injury to a superb performer, or a change in the referee. There is no serious challenge for Southgate, who should hold second position, but Guildford, lying third, will have to work hard against Beckenham.

There is much to be staked for Slough this season. They are defending their national club title and have qualified to meet Guildford in the semi-final of the tournament. No date has yet been fixed. In view of the prevailing fixture congestion a convenient date for the match would be the fourth or fifth of January, thus avoiding a situation arising out of the postponement of the semi-final of the tournament by a week in order to await the outcome of the start from the north.

There is another more important objective for Slough—the European club championship in Barcelona from May 12 to 15 next year. Southgate have won the trophy two years in succession and must have a good chance of winning it for the third time if Slough can beat Edinburgh City Service during the preliminary rounds next April there will be two more British clubs in Barcelona.

At a special general meeting next March 2 a decision will be taken on a recommendation that the London League be split for a further three seasons, starting from 1978-79, into two divisions, with promotion and relegation. Meanwhile the executive committee of the Hockey Association is sending representatives of the London League to set up a joint working party "to investigate the situation regarding the London Hockey League and to make recommendations by January 31, 1978."

In the northern division of the national club championship St. Albans will meet Norton in the quarter-final round at Newmarket tomorrow, starting at 2.00. The winners will meet Norton in the semi-final round on January 15,

on which date Northern will be at home to Netherfield in the other semi-final match. The winners of the quarter-final at the other end of the country will be the club which has having emerged the champion club in this division.

Some of England's leading players will go indoors tomorrow at Watford for training. As there is no outdoor competition of any consequence, the situation is ideal for those who want the best of both worlds. The authorities have agreed that the indoor season will be no outdoor counter-attraction when the six-nation indoor tournament is played at Crystal Palace from January 15 to 19. The same strict rules will apply to the Indoor Hockey Net tournament at Watford on January 1.

Ice hockey

WORLD ASSOCIATION: Birmingham 10; London 10; Newcastle 10; Kingston 10; Aeris 3; Indianapolis 1; Fargo 1.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York 10; Philadelphia 10; Boston 10; Buffalo 10; St. Louis 10; Chicago 10; Detroit 10; Minnesota 10; Dallas 10; San Antonio 10; Los Angeles 10.

WORLD ASSOCIATION: Birmingham Bulls 5, Cincinnati Stingers 3; Houston Aeros 3, Indianapolis Racers 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York Rangers 5, Detroit Red Wings 5; Philadelphia Flyers 6, Boston Bruins 3; Cleveland Barons 6, Atlanta Flames 3; Buffalo Sabres 7, Los Angeles Kings 3.



Resignation soon by Elliott group chairman

Scrap processors are, however, maintaining their deliveries of scrap iron foundry in dustries, private steel makers and the export market where shipments are running about 85,000 tonnes a month.

Some private sector steel makers are also cutting back on their deliveries of scrap, but others are looking to exploit mild developments, particularly those of Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds and the Greek-backed venture, Alpha Steel in South Wales, as a way of reducing the impact of the corporation's cutbacks.

What has particularly concerned the scrap industry is the fact that last September the BS sold processors that it did not expect to drop its requirements to below 25,000 tonnes a week. But with demand for steel extremely weak the corporation has built up substantial stocks which provide a further burden on its already strained finances.

Scrap processors have sought to expand their sales to third countries outside the European Community, and this has met with some success.

by Michael Rife.

Mr. R. V. Smeeth, chairman of the board, Elliott Group of Paterson, N. J., said that the company, which has a headquarters in New York, has said he will resign by the end of the current financial year.

Elliott is the building company whose directors made the announcement in London, announcing that the American order which did not materialize. Two non-executive directors, Mr. I. D. Waterfall and Mr. J. R. Grimsdale, have already resigned.

Both men had substantial sales of Elliott shares. Institutional shareholders expect that Mr. Smeeth's resignation will come in three, rather than 12 months.

This follows a meeting on Thursday of institutional shareholders at which the company was asked for assurances about its present financial position and trading prospects.

Mr. A. W. Houston, an industrial adviser to merchant bankers Kleinwort Benson, who was elected non-executive deputy chairman of Elliott in August, said that the institutions were "happy with the half-year trading position."

He also said that the company had received a "very good" £245,000 order for the year.

From Roger Vielvoye
Caracas, Dec 16

Venezuelan government officials are fairly certain that the meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries will take place, despite earlier fears that the price-fixing conference might have to be postponed.

Five of the ministerial delegations—Mr Edmund Alexis d'Alboub-Bonazit, from Gabon, is due to arrive this evening and Mr Ali Jaidah, the Opec Secretary General, will fly from Paris to Ecuador, the only other Latin American member of the exporters' organization. Mr Ezzeddin Mabruk, the Libyan oil minister, is also due here today.

Dr Valentin Hernandez, the Venezuelan oil minister, is still in Europe where he has been trying to reach a compromise on the pricing issue or at least offer Opec members the chance

of postponing the Caracas meeting rather than face another public split, as happened in Qatar last year.

From reports reaching the government in Caracas it is clear that Opec is still far away from the hoped-for agreement over pricing but none of the members is keen to postpone Tuesday's meeting.

Saudi Arabia's insistence on a 5 per cent oil price freeze supported by Iran, Abu Dhabi and Qatar, is matched by Iraq and Algeria's argument for substantial price rises.

At the meeting the remaining six members, including the host, Venezuela, who would be prepared to settle for a 5 per cent to 8 per cent rise, or have their demands met.

For Venezuela, which has a tradition for acting as a mediator in this type of dispute, the meeting is a compromise that includes over the past week presents stern problems.

Political circles here want Venezuela to continue this peace-making role and there has been little criticism that Dr Hernandez did not make greater efforts to prevent last December's split. However, the key to Opec's survival, says President Carlos Andres Perez, is ending the two-tiered pricing system has muted this.

Already there is speculation that the price issue could be removed from the agenda and deferred until an extraordinary meeting of Opec in late winter or early spring, in effect this would mean that the price rise would be coming into the quarter of next year and go part of the way to meeting the moderates' demands.

There is as an expected upturn in demand for oil, postponing the pricing decision until next year would mean the inevitable clash between the doves and the hawks.

Calmer tone in money market deals

The yen weakened a little against the dollar after the release of the 2000 yen further details of the Government's plan to reduce Japan's trade surplus.

There was much less pressure on the Deutsche mark than on the yen, although the dollar slipped 20 points on the day in this market.

The Swiss franc made the strongest gains on the day, rising to a new high of 2.02 francs against the dollar. There was a sharp increase in the Swiss official reserves as a result of the Swiss intervention in recent weeks.

Steinling picked up against the basket of currencies to reach 63.7, compared to 63.6 on Thursday. The rate against the dollar was up 85 points at 118.4, after a closing level since April, 1976.

"We are studying how we can push the old three-month interval, which the previous price code tended to encourage, not only to six months but in many cases to a 12-month interval", he said.

Mr Williams was commencing on the Commission's first quarterly report since it began operation in 1974.

It showed that fewer companies were applying for increases at frequent regular intervals. The number of companies applying for price rises within three months of their last bid fallen to one third of earlier levels.

But there could be a number of factors behind the report, pointed out. Lower costs and increased competitive pressures could have had some effect and so could a company's desire to avoid the rigours of the Commission's new regime.

Average monthly figures for the new Commission's work for the first 30 months 30 price notifications were withdrawn and 20 modified.

Five large distributors had been told to eliminate excess profits totalling £344,000. These were H. J. Sales (UK), S. D. Holland and Aitchison, Randall Group and J. R. Philips.

Mr Williams emphasised the long-term nature of the Commission's work in changing the atmosphere in which price rises were decided.

Not all companies would be able to achieve longer intervals between price rises and it was a question more of moral persuasion than using the Commission's legal powers to effect the change.

However, if companies made price applications at what seemed too short periods of time, the Commission would consider the Commission's decision whether to investigate a company applying for a rise.

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, Dec. 16

Britain, France and Belgium are heading for a clash with the European Commission next week on demands for a trigger price system for steel imports. The Commission proposed that the United States and the Commission today rejected such a course for the immediate future.

Speaking at a press conference here, Viscount Rennie Davidson, the EEC Commission's Director of Industrial Policy, argued that negotiated agreements, rather than the unilateral fixing of import prices, was the best way to protect Community steel producers against undercutting by foreign competitors.

This recommendation, along with other measures conceived as the second phase of the Commission's "second stage" plan for the steel industry will be put to EEC foreign ministers here next week.

The commission argues that, as a steel exporter of steel the EEC has a right to be justified in resorting to a reference price for imports without first trying to negotiate price agreements with foreign suppliers. Only if these failed would the Commission take action have to be considered.

Viscount Davidson said the Commission would ask all major suppliers to accept common price disciplines. Otherwise, the Commission's measures would have to be taken.

From Michael Horabaty
Brussels, Dec 16

Representatives of the EEC told the Japanese here today that the country's policy of free trade liberalization measures were welcome but insufficient by themselves to turn round Japan's huge surplus in its commerce with the Community, which is expected to reach \$2.6m. (about £275m) this year.

Problems created by the surplus were at the centre of the discussions between Mr Nobuhiko Ushiba, Japan's Minister for External Economic Relations, and Mr Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, and other senior EEC officials.

Commenting on the discussions, Sir Roy Denman, director-general of the Commission's external affairs department, said the EEC had impressed on Mr Ushiba that the Western world's commitment to trade liberalisation could be fairly understood, but that the growing surplus of the Japanese surplus was not cured.

Unless the Japanese recognized the gravity of the situation Sir Roy said, "the Western world is at a disadvantage. The Tokyo Round, and the future of an open trading system would be at risk."

He made it clear that the EEC is planning its hopes for action to redress the trade imbalance mainly in the form of anti-export measures, which the Japanese have promised to announce next week.

These, it is hoped, will curb Japan's excessive economic growth and increase demand for European manufactured goods.

It is understood the Japanese have indicated that the measures should be sufficient to raise the country's growth rate below 10 per cent, the rate expected this year to 7 per cent or more in 1978.

Specific complaints raised with Mr Ushiba included lack of access for EEC exports of agricultural products, a 10 per cent duty on Japanese machinery, on which tariffs of up to 35 per cent are imposed, and quantitative restrictions on imports of shoes.

Mr Ushiba was also told that decisions by the country's steel industry to buy the European steel would be a welcome sign of Japanese recognition of the world's biggest trading block.

Further details of the Government's eight-point plan to cut the trade surplus were announced. These covered the measure to increase imports by 10 per cent, to increase the foreign currency which it makes available to commercial banks to encourage exports, to encourage foreign financing of imports, and to increase the foreign currency which it makes available to commercial banks to encourage exports.

The Export-Import Bank announced a new financing system—with a lowered interest rate of 4 1/2 per cent for imports of 40 per cent of the national interest.

By Ray Manshan

Dalgely, the agricultural and merchanting group, has agreed to pay £10.1m for Federated Chemical Holdings. The bidder is proposing to exchange 33 of its own shares for every 100 ordinary and deferred shares.

With Dalgely down 4p to 306p yesterday, Federated is valued at 10.1p a share. The company has a pre-bid price of 50p and yesterday's quotation of 60p, down 3p.

A principal holder of Federated is Anglo-Continental, with a 15.33 per cent stake, whose chairman Sir Frederick Wood controls a further 6.82 per cent. It is believed that Anglo-Continental is prepared to accept Dalgely's terms.

Before the deal goes ahead, however, Federated has been requested to dispose of its 100 per cent stake in Tioxide Group. The two other shareholders in Tioxide,

Imperial Chemical Industries and Lead Industries Group, have indicated that they would be prepared to buy the shares out for £8.4m in cash which would include payment for the dividend and Federated's share of the subscription to the £10.1m share issue that Tioxide held yesterday.

Federated is a distributor of chemicals and allied raw materials for mining and other industries. It is also a producer in the domestic market, North America, continental Europe and the Far East. Its manufacturing arm produces a wide range of organic and inorganic chemicals and pharmaceutical specialties.

It made pre-tax profits of £3m in 1976 to which its share of Tioxide profits of £2.4m and shareholders were £9.3m at the balance sheet date and in the subsequent six months, profits grew from £358,000 to £2.4m.

Although Federated will remain autonomous, the bidder expects considerable benefits for its ABM chemicals sub-group. The group, which includes Federated's marketing, manufacturing and procurement expertise within an enlarged chemical division.

Large scale chemicals expansion is planned which is hoped to make turnover from this source rise up to about £75m with potential pre-tax profits of £3m.

Harvester, a subsidiary of Dalgely, has made a £790,000 cash offer for George Sellar & Son which manufactures agricultural implements and machinery. Anglo-Continental has a 25 per cent stake in Harvester through six sites in Scotland. Sellar's turns over about £6m annually and employs about 100 people.

The firm's identity will be retained but it will form part of Dalgely's agricultural division which, where the existing turnover is about £5m annually, Dalgely already has a 50 per cent stake. Harvester equipment is in 16 sites in East Anglia and Hampshire.

The Government's pre-Christmas offering to the gilt-edged market is to be a new perpetually paid long dated stock, £800m nominal of Treasury 10½ per cent 1999.

This stock, which is being priced at 95½ per cent overall, is payable at £15 per cent on application next Thursday £40 per cent on January 9 and £40 per cent on February 6.

Although the gross redemption yield of 11.12 per cent is marginally lower than that offered on the nearest equivalent stock, Exchequer 10½ per cent 1999, the new issue is felt to be a good buy because the stock could still go well provided the former trend in the market continues into next week.

There are renewed expectations of an upward move soon in interest rates levels following publication of the latest money supply figures.

According to the Federal Reserve Board, the narrowly defined money stock, known as M1, rose £1,800m in the last week.

On a \$1,600m gain in the previous week after the M2 basis money stock rose \$2,500m, compared with \$2,000m a week earlier.

Rolls-Royce ban lifted

Workers at the Rolls-Royce aero-engine plant at Billingham, Glasgow, yesterday voted to lift a month-old overtime ban imposed in support of a 25 per

A warning that beer prices would have to be raised in the new year, was issued by the Brewers' Association of America, with an assurance that future increases would be at less frequent intervals.

The need for an imminent price rise was stressed at a meeting between the brewers and Mr. Hatterley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, and Mr. John Silda, Minister for Agriculture.

Mr. Hatterley said he would discuss the Price Commission's findings on the industry.

Large brewers, who have all held their prices for six months, said they might be asked to raise them, and other costs mean they must charge at least a more a pint from early next year. There increases, of possibly up to 4p, will be sought on some beers whose prices have not been raised for long.

Mr. Hatterley is hoping to persuade brewers to hold prices for at least a year on the grounds that the rate of inflation is falling. But it was agreed that the amount of the increases is a matter between the brewers and the Price Commission, and it was up to the commission to make any recommendations.

Mr. Hatterley said the commission should be investigated.

The outcome of the meeting is something of a victory for the brewers who had feared that government price controls would be imposed. However, they agreed that the frequency with which increases had been sought was undesirable.

criticized the brewers' custom of seeking increases every three months. This, it pointed out, was a serious cause for complaint. The report was also severely critical of the structure of the brewing industry and questioned the desirability of its future investment plan.

As a result of yesterday's meeting, brewers agreed to cooperate with the Department of Prices and the Ministry of Agriculture in a joint study into the industry's cost-benefit system, local monopolies and brewery ownership of retail outlets.

Hatterley told the Brewers' Society that the Government was unlikely to interfere favourably upon future merger proposals among the brewers.

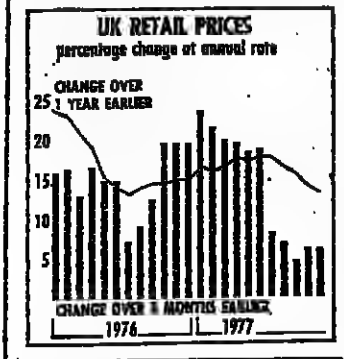
Unaudited pre-tax profit for half year ended 30th September, 1977 (excluding BPT Leisure International Limited) £478,728 against £474,850. Profits from BPT Leisure £9,758 against £136,682 for 7 months. Turnover £10,389,048 against £11,333,532 (including £109,926 from BPT Leisure against £543,487).

After deduction of £254,013 for Corporation Tax (£317,997) and extraordinary item of professional expenses and costs for circulars to shareholders in September £41,550 (nil), profit attributable to members of holding company £192,484 (£293,354).

Interim dividend, payable 6th February, 1978, of 0.4025p on 21,348,449 shares (same), again absorbing £85,928. Earnings on 21,348,449 Ordinary shares 1.06p (1.34p).

Trading in the second half of the financial year to date continued at the same level as reported for the first six months.

K. O. Boardman International Limited announces that the Court has approved resolutions of the Company reducing its capital and providing for the cancellation of the 2 million Ordinary shares which have been issued as part of the consideration for the acquisition of BPT Leisure International Limited. Consequently, all the conditions contained in the agreements dated 10th August, 1977, dealing with the arrangements with Mr. S. B. Davis and Mr. J. Levy in relation to BPT Leisure International Limited, details of which were circulated to shareholders have now been fulfilled. Completion of the above has now taken place and the intentions of Mr. S. B. Davis and Mr. Levy as Directors of K. O. Boardman International Limited have been accepted.



RETAIL PRICES

The following are the index numbers (January 1914 = 100) for retail prices of seasonally adjusted, unprocessed commodities as published by the Department of Employment.

	(1) All Items	(2) Items except seasonal food	(3) Rate of increase in (2), over 6 months earlier
1917	172.4	170.9	18.0
Feb	174.1	172.5	18.4
March	175.8	174.3	18.7
April	180.6	178.7	19.7
May	181.7	180.5	20.0
June	193.6	182.4	19.5
July	193.8	184.7	19.6
Aug	194.7	184.9	14.9
Sept	186.7	186.2	14.1
Oct	186.5	187.3	9.9
Nov	187.4	188.2	8.7

Introduction of the controversial 71% tax designed to reduce tax subsidies associated with the "lump" in the building industry, has led to a substantial reduction in loss of revenue, Mr Sheldon, Financial Secretary at the Treasury, said

Citibank prime rate held at 7½ pc

Citibank announced in New York yesterday that it is holding its prime commercial lending rate at 7½ per cent, but

is available.

In a written parliamentary answer yesterday, Mr Denzil Davies, Minister of State at the Treasury, said draft clauses would be published after this to set out the consultation with those involved.

Apex Props	5p to 225p	Preedy A.	4p to 78p
Churchbury Est	13p to 243p	Redearn Nat	7p to 307p
Derby Tst	5p to 190p	Sercombe Mar	10p to 240p
EMI	8p to 180p	Stocks J.	6p to 129p
Hammersley	6p to 196p	Trafford Park	6p to 92p
Jack W.	2p to 24p	Union Discount	10p to 450p
McNeill Grn	2p to 35p	York Trailer	6p to 65p

The Chancellor yesterday gave manufacturing industry an unexpected pre-Christmas bonus by lifting restrictions on the timing of payment of regional development grants. This means that an estimated extra £90m in state grants will go to industry by the end of March.

interest rates...

Because we were able to place large sums in the money market last year when interest rates were high, the gross return on the Property Growth Money Fund is still high—currently in excess of 13 per cent—and our investors are enjoying the benefit.

Because we were able to place large sums in the money market last year when interest rates were high, the gross return on the Property Growth Money Fund is still high — currently in excess of 13 per cent — and our investors are enjoying the benefit.

You can invest a lump sum of £1,000 or more in our Money Fund, with an annual income option; or you can save from £20 a month, with tax relief on your payments. Whichever method you choose, you get life cover into the bargain.

And at any time you have flexibility to switch into any of our other Funds without charge.

Ask your insurance broker for full details or contact:
Property Growth Assurance Company Limited,
Head Office: Leon House, High Street, Croydon, CR9 1LU.
Telephone: 01-880 0806

Not applicable to fire.

PROPERTY GROWTH ASSURANCE
A member of the Phoenix Assurance Group

THE POUND			with tax relief on your payments. Whichever method you choose, you get life cover into the bargain.
	Bank buys	Bank sells	
Australia \$	1.67	1.62	And at any time you have flexibility to switch into any of our other Funds without charge.
Austria Sch	30.00	28.00	
Belgium Fr	65.00	62.00	
Canada \$	2.07	2.02	
Denmark Kr	11.33	10.85	
Finland Mk	7.85	7.50	
France Fr	9.12	8.80	
Germany Dm	4.14	3.92	
Greece Dr	77.50	73.50	
Hongkong \$	8.90	8.45	
Italy L*	1640.00	1585.00	
Japan Yn	463.00	438.00	
Netherlands Gld	4.48	4.25	
Norway Kr	9.46	9.60	
Portugal Esc	80.00	76.00	
S Africa Rd	1.86	1.74	
Spain Pes	159.25	153.25	
Sweden Kr	9.10	8.75	
Switzerland Fr	4.01	3.79	
US \$	1.89	1.84	
Yugoslavia Dnr	36.75	34.25	

Gröuse

In the past British Rail has admitted the principle by making ex-gratia concessions in similar circumstances, so why not formally recognize the arrangement?

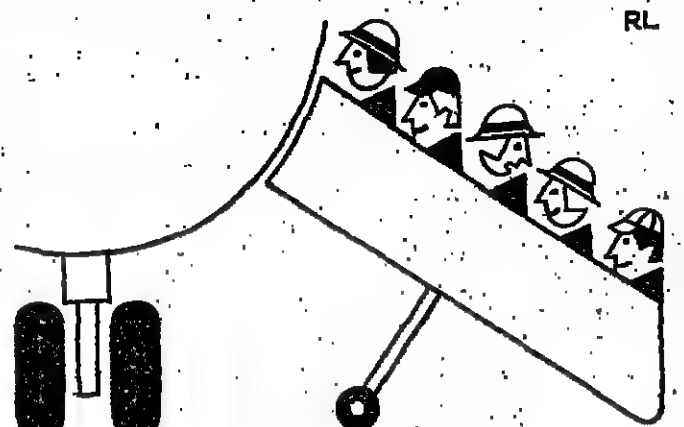
**The sooner the better
with school fees . . .**

templating such a scheme

individual child travelling alone as they are the large groups. It pays, of course, to develop such skills, since the cut-price

23.7	London & Menarosso	30.11.77
45.1	London & Prov	30.11.77
100.7	Mercantile	30.11.77
	Conv Deb9 1983	30.11.77

Children under the protective wings of the airlines



3.2	198.0	198.7	18.7	113.6	GT Japan	30.11.77
5.25	239.0	242.3	28.0		Conv Loan 1987	30.11.77
3.0	158.7	142.3	18.5		Hambros Group	
0.05	*8.2	54.1	2.1		Bishopsgate	30.11.77
14.60	£75.70	£81.20	£3.20	23.0	Citic of Dividend	30.11.77

1.0	x143.4	x139.6	9.5
28.50	288.30	286.60	25.90
5.25	238.0	245.4	12.2

When arrears are remitted

- Student grants



38.1	City of Lond Brew	30.11.77
29.2	Cont Union	30.11.77
15.0	CLRP	30.11.77
167.8	Ind & Gen	30.11.77
35.7	International	30.11.77

2.4	74.9	78.4	1.3
2.85	150.8	156.0	12.3
1.9	86.8	93.8	6.9
1.43	66.7	68.0	4.5
2.34	85.1	100.9	7.3

Seasonal buyers thin on the ground

23.7	London & Mercantile	30.11.77
45.1	London & Mercantile	30.11.77
100.7	Mercantile	30.11.77
	Conv Debts 1983	30.11.77

5.25	239.0	242.3	28.0
3.0	139.7	142.3	18.5
0.05	29.2	54.1	2.1
14.00	275.70	281.20	23.20

413.6	GT Japan	30.11.77
	Conv Loan 1967	30.11.77
	Hambros Group	
23 0	Bishopsgate	30.11.77
3 8	City of Oxford	30.11.77

1.0	x143.4	x139.6	9.5
28.50	288.30	286.60	25.90
5.25	238.0	245.4	12.2

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Year's high	Year's low	Company	Rises Movement	Comment
155p	50p	B. Dew	22p to 150p	Takeover hopes
319p	113p	Finlay, J.	20p to 298p	Tea Price rise
500p	170p	Glenlivet	35p to 200p	New terms from Seagram
252p	91p	ICL	78p to 230p	Profits above expectations
287p	115p	Tunnel	11p to 257p	Speculation over T. W. Ward alake
<hr/>				
179p	42p	Braithwaite	12p to 145p	Figures
322p	58p	Oil Exploration	24p to 298p	Speculators withdraw
182p	55p	Phoenix Timber	90p to 157p	Profits slump
182p	95p	Smiths Industries	14p to 154p	Trading warming
262p	84p	J. Waddington & A	24p to 228p	Gloomy prospects

Investment trust valuations

Total Assets Less current liabilities	Company	Date of Valuation	Annual Dividend	Net Asset Value after deducting prior charges at market value	Investment Company Premiums (see note 8)
VALUATION MONTHLY					
148.2	Pence	30.11.77	6.55	273.3	283.5
25.4	Cepital & Nat	30.11.77	4.0	175.1	180.1
9.9	Investment	30.11.77	3.0	126.8	130.8
10.1	Crosscraft	30.11.77	3.3	100.8	103.8
15.3	Oversea & Lond	30.11.77	2.5	61.3	62.8
86.2	Investment	30.11.77	2.5	203.2	203.2
42.0	First Scottish	30.11.77	2.36	114.2	116.1
	1 Land	30.11.77		114.2	116.1
67.6	Gnat Northern	30.11.77	1.88	131.5	131.5
61.3	Guardian	30.11.77	2.35	105.0	107.5
10.0	Investment Trust Capital	30.11.77	2.0	217.9	223.9
1.1	Investors Capital	30.11.77		1.0	1.0
25.0	Investment	30.11.77	0.7	167.7	168.7
32.6	London & Holyrood	30.11.77	3.2	145.0	148.7
27.7	London & McInerney	30.11.77	5.25	239.3	242.3
1.1	London & York	30.11.77	3.0	193.7	193.7
100.7	Mercantile	30.11.77	0.88	78.5	81.0
	Cash Debt 1993	30.11.77	0.450	591.20	631.20
49.5	Scottish American	30.11.77	12.6	172.6	172.6
7.1	S & P United	30.11.77		142.2	149.2
11.3	Scottish	30.11.77	2.58	128.2	127.1
53.6	Scottish Northern	30.11.77	2.0	122.3	124.6
93.1	Scottish United	30.11.77	1.7	106.6	110.2
40.8	Second Alliance	30.11.77	5.65	248.6	242.9
36.9	Scottish	30.11.77	1.7	143.9	143.9
90.9	Sterling	30.11.77	4.65	210.8	225.2
30.0	Stirling	30.11.77	2.25	158.2	158.2
71.0	United British	30.11.77	3.975	150.2	150.2
20.2	US and Gen	30.11.77	5.11	239.3	243.3
64.0	United British	30.11.77	3.18	143.9	143.9
	Cash Debt 1993	30.11.77	15.00	621.30	613.90
	Bellie Girford				
113.8	Scottish Mortgage	32.11.77	3.0	142.0	144.4
86.0	Scottish & Dundee	30.11.77	3.5	176.7	180.7
58.3	Monk	30.11.77	1.4	84.1	84.7
7	Wimborston	30.11.77			7
	Barling Bank				
37.1	Outright	30.11.77	ac1.25	ac67.5	ac67.5
23.0	Tribune	30.11.77	12.1	984.5	998.8
42.5	Aberdeen	30.11.77	4.65	174.2	183.7
59.3	Edinburgh Fund	30.11.77			14.9
23.5	American	30.11.77	1.2	56.3	58.4
13.7	Crescent Japan	30.11.77		166.0	20.5
71.5	Electric House				
13.5	Globe	30.11.77	4.3	135.1	136.7
251.1	Globe	30.11.77	4.1	147.4	147.8
	Canv Loan 1987/91	30.11.77	30.60	100.00	95.00
	Canv Loan 1987/90	30.11.77	32.25	109.00	109.00
35.0	Temple Bar	30.11.77	8.5	229.4	234.4
	Canv Loan 1985/90	30.11.77	25.00	100.00	92.00
	Canv Loan 1987/91	30.11.77	25.00	89.00	82.00
	F & C Group				
17.7	Alliance	30.11.77	2.45	129.8	131.6
20.2	Cardinal	30.11.77	3	146.1	150.3
65.1	F & Eurofund	30.11.77	50.00	210.30	212.60
	Cardinal & Goldcorp	30.11.77	11.8	100.00	104.4
	F & Eurofund	30.11.77	2.8	214.4	212.5

1. The first group of people who are not in the labor force are those who are not in the labor force because they are not in the labor force.

TESS Assets	Company	Date of Sale	Amount Offered	Net Asset Value per share	Per share price changes at market value	Investment Company premium (see note 3)
	Gartmore Investment (Soc)					
70.6	Scottish Nat	30.11.77	3.45	166.9	190.2	14.7
17.1	Glasgow Stock Ex	30.11.77	2.06	129.9	135.7	14.4
	John Groat					
79.7	Berard & Southern	30.11.77	7.9	361.2	368.9	38.5
26.1	Scottish Nat	30.11.77	1.9	107.9	110.6	10.6
11.4	General Stock Ex	30.11.77	1.7	137.9	149.0	76.9
11.4	Scottish Nat	30.11.77	1.8	94.8	94.6	0.0
58.4	Latent View	30.11.77	2.4	168.0	168.0	0.0
	Cor Loan 1978/88	30.11.77	84.00	1185.10	1185.20	0.10
56.7	Cor Loan 1978/88	30.11.77	2.05	122.5	127.2	12.6
	GT Management					
15.7	Berry	30.11.77	0.875	154.1	147.1	3.6
5.5	Cor Loan 1983	30.11.77	10.07	1107.40	1107.90	0.50
5.5	North Sea Sec	30.11.77	3.0	146.2	150.9	9.7
13.6	Japan	30.11.77	3.0	143.4	138.6	8.3
	Cor Loan 1982	30.11.77	29.50	306.00	306.00	0.00
23.0	Hambros Group	30.11.77	5.25	236.0	245.4	9.4
3.8	City of Oxford	30.11.77	3.0	81.4	84.8	12.0
245.3	Hambros	30.11.77	3.25	120.7	110.3	7.8
8.0	Bleddinord	30.11.77		111.5	118.0	7.0
	Henderson Administration					
123.9	Witan	30.11.77	1.9	110.7	116.0	7.0
5.7	General & General	30.11.77	1.3	92.7	90.6	10.0
8.7	Greenfield	30.11.77	1.2	110.7	110.7	0.0
5.0	Lowland	30.11.77	2.2	63.4	69.4	1.8
2.1	English Nation	30.11.77	1.74	92.7	90.6	10.0
	Def Ord 25p	30.11.77	2.06	95.9	89.4	4.0
	Philo Mil (Management)					
19.4	City of Oxford	30.11.77	4.07	121.5	125.3	8.0
	General & Com	30.11.77	4.85	166.1	177.7	7.7
23.1	Gen Consolidated	30.11.77	3.1	102.4	105.1	5.8
125.8	Philo Mil	30.11.77	6.25	225.5	225.5	0.0
4.8	Moorgate	30.11.77	3.055	95.0	95.3	1.4
3.1	1920	30.11.77	7.55	256.6	264.3	28.0
	Invest & Sme					
42.4	Atlantic Assets	30.11.77	0.4	126.0	134.4	18.0
102.7	British Assets	30.11.77	2.0	86.6	82.5	4.5
34.8	British Assets	30.11.77	0.9	177.3	181.5	14.5
15.8	Viking Resources	30.11.77	0.9	137.9	137.9	11.9
	Secs Utilities					
11.1	Throgmorton Sec	30.11.77			156.4	4.0
37.7	Throgmorton Sec	30.11.77	4.0	80.0	83.7	7.0
	Kilmartin Benson					
26.6	Bell Amer & San	30.11.77	1.5	51.7	52.1	2.0
	Brunner	30.11.77	1			
	Charter	30.11.77	1			
40.9	Smith & NY	30.11.77	2.5	95.9	97.9	7.7
3.9	Fidelity	30.11.77	3.65	89.7	97.7	0.2
2.8	Jos	30.11.77	2.04	57.7	57.9	1.6
5.8	Prudential	30.11.77	0.9	82.3	86.1	6.0
	Merchants	30.11.77	2.6	89.2	92.5	4.7
	Laird Bros					
	Rivard	30.11.77	1			
40.0	Hampsey	30.11.77	2.35	113.9	116.2	12.9
	Parlin Carle					
10.3	Parlin Carle & For	30.11.77	3.95	142.6	146.3	16.0
19.1	St Andrew	30.11.77	3.85	149.3	154.2	14.0

1. The first step in the process of identifying a problem is to recognize that a problem exists. This is often done by comparing current performance with a desired state or goal. If there is a significant difference, a problem is identified.

Full Name	Asset Class	Company	Date of Valuation	Annual Dividend	Net Asset Value after deduction price charges at market value	Investment Company Premium (%)
98.5	Broadstone	30.11.77	4.5	167.0	194.8	16.1
47.5	Cont Int 1988/93	30.11.77	£4.50	£124.70	£129.90	£10.80
38.5	Cont & Ind	30.11.77	5.75	252.3	262.7	13.0
28.9	Trans-Oceanic	30.11.77	4.2	220.9	226.7	21.4
18.1	Cont Int 1989/93	30.11.77	5.4	£127.4	£141.90	11.0
14.8	Westpool	30.11.77	2.85	123.1	135.4	12.4
12.1	Cont Int 1989/94	30.11.77	£5.00	£118.80	£122.20	£11.40
75.3	Scottish Amer	30.11.77	2.16	105.1	106.40	6.5
65.6	Scottish European	30.11.77	1.4	77.1	80.0	2.9
59.5	Touche Roussel	30.11.77	1.6	50.1	50.0	4.4
30.4	Alfa Electric	30.11.77	2.3	70.7	76.2	3.1
30.3	Coder	30.11.77	2.5	54.3	56.0	3.0
29.1	20% of Loan Grow	30.11.77	2.2	105.0	105.0	12.3
29.2	Cont Union	30.11.77	2.85	150.9	150.0	12.3
32.0	CLUP	30.11.77	1.8	86.5	90.0	3.6
17.5	20% of Gen	30.11.77	2.0	105.0	105.0	12.3
35.7	International	30.11.77	2.34	95.7	103.6	7.7
50.5	Sphers	30.11.77	2.8	146.0	150.0	11.4
81.5	Touche Cont	30.11.77	4.0	180.2	180.0	7.5
24.2	Tunel	30.11.77	2.8	135.0	136.3	7.5
3.4	Atlanta Bait & Chic	30.11.77	0.5	56.5	65.8	7.0
12.8	Sizwell - European	30.11.77	1.5	94.8	94.6	3.6
4.1	W Coast & Texas	30.11.77	0.5	79.4	79.4	8.2

VALUATION THREE-MONTHLY						
5.8	Kingsdale	30.3.77	1.5	58.1	56.1	0.3
10.8	Seaford Ind	30.3.77	3.5	83.7	87.4	4.4
City Financial Administration						
4.5	Acorn	30.3.77		57.3	57.9	0.9
18.1	General Fund	30.3.77	4.1	187	187	6.9
3	Cont Ord Ind	25.11.77		165.9	170.6	7.5
13.7	Invest in Europe	30.11.77	2.405	183.2	186.6	18.9
Investment Montagu Portfolio						
53.4	Drayton Premier	30.11.77	6.0	246.7	268.1	26.7
53.4	Cont Int 1988	30.11.77	£7.00	£155.10	£160.60	£16.70
70.8	A Cont Loan 1983	30.11.77	57.50	515.0	515.0	71.0
	A Cont Loan 1984	30.11.77	4.7	192.3	200.7	7.1
	A Cont Loan 1985	30.11.77	£7.50	£165.30	£169.80	£17.50
	A Cont Loan 1986	30.11.77	£8.00	£165.30	£169.80	£17.50
48.9	Drayton Commercial	30.11.77	£3.50	£159.50	£162.50	£1.9
	Cont Loan 1988	30.11.77	4.0	170.4	176.5	11.4
3.3	English & Int	30.11.77	3.5	114.0	123.9	9.7
8.9	Cont Loan 1986	30.11.77	72.5	£171.80	£178.90	£1.1
7.1	British Ind	30.11.77	3.4	135.4	140.1	16.9
6.3	Cont Loan 1984	30.11.77	55.50	£151.50	£156.70	£16.70
2.6	Montagu Boston	30.11.77	0.8	176.7	181.0	11.0
	Drayton For Eastern	30.11.77	0.1	59.3	61.1	13.3
	Cont & Foreign	30.11.77				
11.1	Domestic & Gen	30.11.77	6.75	240.4	249.5	16.3
23.1	Pennland	30.11.77	3.4	150.0	154.3	18.5

**THE STOCKHOLDERS
INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED**

1975	1.73	1.65	91.9
1976	2.19	1.05	122.6
Total net resources £58,658,977			

Points from the Annual Report

—In the year the asset value has risen by 33% and the market price of the shares has risen by 77% which reflects a significant and welcome narrowing of the discount to asset value.

Margaret
Drummond

Vera Di Palma

Unit Trusts

with specialist funds for the FTSE 100 index 2.851.6
12.1% over past three years
2.851.6

	A	B
... ..	115.0	257
... ..	115.7	212
... ..	114.1	215
... ..	115.0	254
... ..	114.4	227

[illegible]

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

Weekend

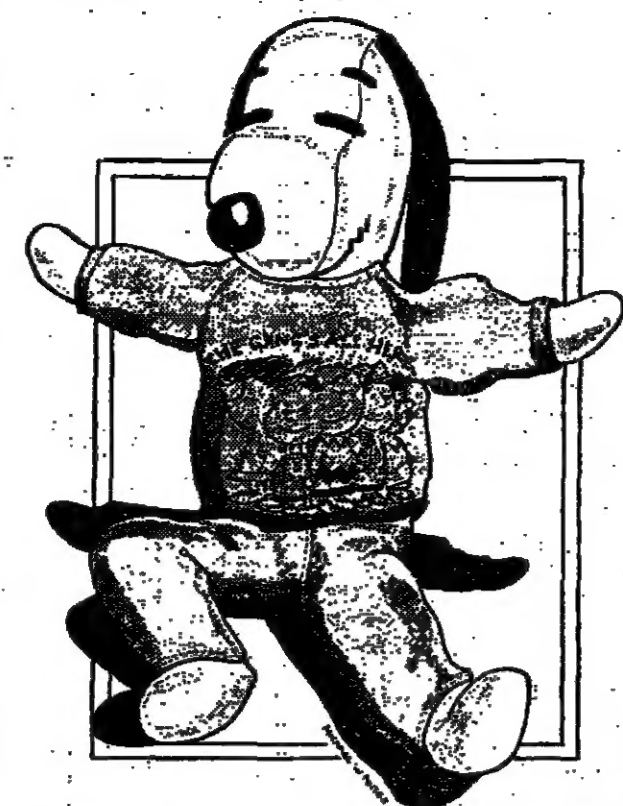
SHOP AROUND

Sheila Black

Heal's is a veritable fairy-land this Christmas, packed with goodies and exceptionally full of toys. Not in the photograph but worth mentioning are pots of herbs containing Witches Brew. The brews are many and so useful, being antidotes to Melancholy, Drunkenness, Gout, Wind, and Apoplexy. Since all the recipes are herbal brews from old English recipes collected in West Sussex, there is obviously one for love, a real love potion, which is the one most people want although they buy the others for fun. These are £1.35 each. Crabtree and Evelyn soaps always make lovely pres-

sents and the Avocado here is one of many stocked everywhere and in plenty at Heal's. The bread basket is also fun—there are flat ones, medium ones, small ones with sweets and a number of different arrangements of artificial rolls or croissants, delectably and appetizingly glazed. They would fool most of the people most of the time and make table or sideboard ornaments with a party look to them although the prices are rather high at from around £7 to £8.

In the background is a small sack of rum tuffles from Merryval sweets, so popular with *Times* readers last year. Merryval sweets are full of quality and delicious sweets too. The rum tuffles are £1.35 and can be posted for 35p; an apothecary jar of coloured sweets is £2.30 (75p). Sesame and honey makes a delight at 35p plus 35p and really old-world tresses for 65p (35p). Some superb pralines and ananas au rhum are, respectively, £2.95 (40p) and £2.85 (45p). If you can get near the shops, do, and be tempted. They are in London at 59 Fleet Street, at Sloane Square and Leicester Square stations and at 10 Victoria Arcade, at the station end of Victoria Street, just near the Circle and District Lines entrance from the street. The last address, in London SW1, is the one for mail orders.



There is no doubt that Paddington Bear is this year's favourite, as our own tribe of children among *The Times* readers have testified, but Snoopy is still a close second. So look out for Mini-Mascot Snoopy dolls at 90p each; little velvet Woodstocks at £1.95; and plush and rag snoopy dolls from around £2 to £40. The Peanut tumbling troupe, called Stackables, has five Peanut characters who can be arranged to stand or perform like acrobats—or just £1.85. Snoopy memory boards, softball darts, games as described under *Excetera's* wares, and even beandolls are all in the Snoopy image. Stocked very, very widely but, the distributor's name is The Gledhill Ltd, 57 Crawford Street, London, W1. (01-724 3406).

A textile framed photograph has softness and intimacy. This one is from Maples, Euston Road for £4.95 plus 50p and it matches curtain fabric at £6.75 the metre.

Make yourself a minicone, designed and produced by John Ryan, 12 Airlie Gardens, London, W8. You buy a sheet of coloured shapes which are cut out then rolled into cones to make a row of little characters. You can have Henry characters. You can have Henry VIII and his six wives; Robin Hood and his merry men; Hansel and Gretel with their sweet cottage, cat, witch and woodcutter; or Captain Pugwash and four more pirates. The card is thin enough for

really young children to cut easily, the colours are bright, the heights are from two to four inches and they all look rather like those little wooden Russian dolls. You can find them at all Design Centre shops, Harrods, Heals, General Trading, Children's Book Centre in Kensington High Street, and so forth in London. There are some out of town stockists or you might contact the maker direct (01-727 8106). Each minicone card of characters is about 75p.

A little company has a good games idea. They send you anagrams on certain themes. For example, they send you a list of Christmas words together with cards printed boldly with anagrams of the words on the list. Place the cards about the room and give each guest a pencil and paper. Then mark the best scores within a certain time limit. Although it is a little late now to be organized for Christmas with the names of your family and guests, the stock is a good one covering 20 subjects like drinks, birds, cars, composers, Shakespearean characters, pop singers, TV programmes and many others. You could be sophisticated and order both Countries of the World and Capital Cities, then use them both together in a kind of double game. A nice idea anyone can buy each set for £1.25 including postage. Write to Sphinx, 11 Graysheer Road, Headley Down, Bordon, Hampshire, and for the complete list, telephone Headley Down 2752. They are in their name "Will shake can". Had you thought of anagramming all your names or making place names that mixed-up way?



For years and years, *Excetera* has been a source of fun to many and I have thoroughly enjoyed recommending their tricks as well as their host-and-house accessories. In the photograph, you see a small selection from a very large range that also includes some super leatherware such as handbags, shoes and belts made by a small factory of Indians here in England. The Korea crystal ice bucket is a piece of great beauty, with the clear crystal essentially unflawed—some cut crystal can be flawed as the cuts can cover a few, but never the clear crystal. It costs £22.95 but is heavy, quality crystal, always admired. An original bottle-shaped decanter matches it, just as crystal clear at £29.95 (£2.50 extra by post). The adorable little alarm clock tells the time worldwide but I do not recommend it for desks unless the owner remembers to lock it away every single time he leaves the office. I know what happens in offices, anywhere and everywhere—the price is £16.95 (£1 p/p). In the background is one of a set of three subcases plus tote bag, an exceptionally reasonable set at £45 (plus £2). Of tough cotton, the colour is a kind of bluish-white, with a slight tweedy effect and the pattern is very reminiscent of some rather cooler ones. New blue blindings all around the sides make strong sides and a strong setting for the zip fasteners. Red stripes help you to find it off the luggage claim—one of the *Excetera* executives has been all round the world with his case twice and it is only just looking a bit worn. The cases are medium, large and larger, the tote bag capacious.

A little plastic box with smaller boxes that fit or slide in and out like drawers is called an organizer (£1.25 plus 45p). I think they are useful for such small things as paper clips but I recommend them mostly for babies, who would love playing with these little fit-together plastic pieces. A marble chess board and knife arrive packed flat but the marble, flat dish has a graceful stem to assemble when you open the pack and makes an easy-pass-around cheese "board" at £12.60 plus £2.50.

There is a fascinating game called Rummikub, played with 106 bricks, corresponding to two packs of cards with a couple of jokers. The bricks, like scrabble bricks, are played from strands in front of each player. Complicated to begin with, it becomes fascinating and costs £14.95 (£1). Parties or buffets will be bettered for this. Chip and Dip Crystal bowl, a heavy crystal bowl with a crystal wall in the middle of it for dip—also a good way of serving non-fattening things like chipper carrots or celery with a cottage cheese dip—it costs £19.95 (£2.50). For simple fun, try a felt target board at which are thrown pile-covered balls which stick to the felt and so can be played in any room without putting the furniture at risk—£15.00 (30p). For outdoors and picnics, consider Frigates, a portable refrigerator or "cooker" to heat food. An insulated box into which you pack cans of beer or packs and cans of food, then plug into the cigarette lighter of the car to cool or heat as you drive towards the picnic site. The two-way plug is the secret and it holds up to half a dozen 12-cans of beer, cold or whatever and three or four sandwiches—£99, I am afraid. A luxury item, true, but *Excetera* sells a good many luxury items and I do mean "sell". For instance, they have had great success with the miniature pocket TV by Sinclair, the clever calculator people, at £225 (posted for £3 extra, including insurance).

You can even follow the practice of some executives and have your own personal computer. Feed in all that you want to do or remember, then tell the Mind Reader which will tell you on the appropriate day to go to the important meeting. Call up the Calendar to read off weeks or months at a time. It costs £395, £3 postage. I can remember the *Excetera* of the '60s, when idiot jokes would sell for anything up to £25 or £50 because people had



the money to spare. Now a joke is something like the Pet rock, a piece of rock in a box for those who wanted to avoid cleaning the cage in which it lay, the feeding and the walks in the parks. Now how would you like to swear flies with a Heath Robinson contraption at £7.95? Squeeze a trigger and a lever with a fly-watter on it executes the fly which is calibrated so that the hand that pressed the trigger can score. If the fly is dead centre on the

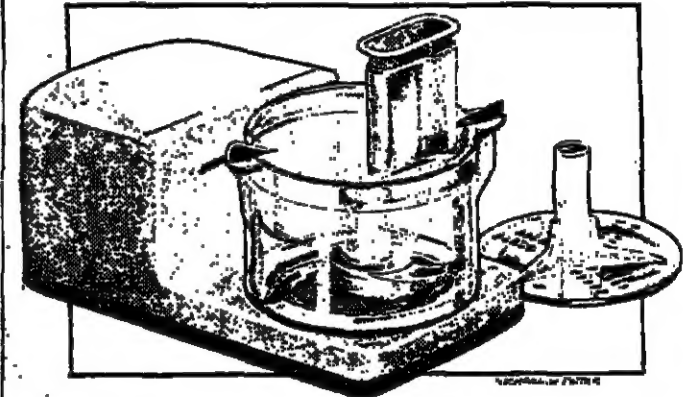
swatter (or was rumoured) the score is 100, the score lessening as the fly dies nearer the outside. They still have those large blocks of wood with apparently piercing nails, with which you can be ballpoint pens. The plastic paper clip I have mentioned before and, although it is now £4.95, it is still a popular gift. A plastic lady has a man stop her and the papers are clipped together when the dogs of the couple are pressed together. Neither vulgar nor

tasteful, accepted by children as much as by adult jokers, this eternally mating couple are quality made, finished in a crystal-clear acrylic which somehow makes them both useful and amusing rather than sexy or vulgar in any way. A laser is another expensive toy. A small desk-top machine merely shoots out laser beams, makes shapes and images, sprays red dots or does whatever the slides dictate (£500). Solar lighters for cigarettes, calculator-watches, and a host of other toys, costly or less so, are mixed up in *Excetera* with silver and silver plate, porcelain and earthenware, massive fruit candles and literally hundreds of stocking fillers. The shops are at 165 Station Road, Edgware; 37 St John's Wood High Street; 26 Comaugh Street; and 47 Golders Green Road, London NW11, as well as Brent Cross. The Golders Green Shop is the mail order office and the telephone number is 01-455 3441.

Magimix has been a terrific food machine to me ever since it came to Britain and my own high opinion of it has been confirmed by the thousands who have since bought one. It was then about £57 and prices have steadily gone up to nearly £79 or so. Determined to do something about that, for the French who love it and who have been hit by inflation badly, the makers decided something had to be done about developing cheaper models than what Magimix does. First, they omitted the juicers because, it seems, few people use them and they only take up extra space—one of the great charms of Magimix being its compactness.

Then they developed this Robot-Chef, which has a belt-and-pulley-drive motor instead of the direct-drive motor of the Magimix. In time, you may need a new belt but, when you are saving something like £22, who's counting? It is as good as Magimix and, for those who are not familiar with that wonderful machine, Robot-Chef grates, slices (rather thickly as so few vegetables need the very thin slicing blades), blends, purees, liquidizes, kneads dough or pastry and gives you soup in seconds.

It chops your meat finely, as finely as you like, rather than mincing it, which leaves you the head-giving, taste-imparting blood and which tears and bruises the meat as chopping does not. Besides, chopped meat is so much nicer than mince for recipes. The serrated knife blades do most of the job as they whirl round and round but the slicer and grater take up next to no space in a cupboard. Robot-Chef stands absolutely firmly when it gathers speed so



there is nothing to be concerned about. It really is an indispensable kitchen machine and the more I use Magimix and find washing up the single goblet so simple (milk goes in the dishwasher) the more delighted I am with it. I am sure the Robot-Chef, at around £57, will make everyone who buys it or is given it much the same.

Robot-Chef is only just filtering into various shops like Harrods New Dimension at West Baking and Fumham, Brown Mus of Sheffield, Robert Kelly at Liverpool and so on. You can see demonstrations at Divertimenti, 68/70 Marylebone Lane, London, W1.

As readers begin to take delivery, their names can be passed to you by the British distributor, Wellings Properties, 25 Lower Square, Islington, Middlesex (01-568 7571). Incidentally, the smoky plastic goblet, lower ever so slightly thinner and lighter but has every bit as tough as that of Magimix. And the new system of starting Robot-Chef, with a slide flange that has actually to slide into a slot and click into place before the electricity can be switched on, makes it even more foolproof than the earlier Magimix and that is foolproof enough. You just cannot turn on anything as all until the top lid of the goblet is fully engaged over the goblet itself so there is no threat to meddling children or cock-headed cooks. I think it has one plus over Magimix, which is so powerful that I find it difficult to stop the motor at precisely the right moment—you can chop or puree too finely if you are not careful. The Robot-Chef is a shave less powerful, achieving just as much but not at such a high speed.

You will have to work fast but you can just order a bunch of daffodils to arrive on someone's doorstep for Christmas from the Cornish Bulb Company, 13a, Church Street, Falmouth. £3 for 20 blooms may not be so cheap but spring at Christmas cannot be cheap. The Cornish Bulb Company grows bulbs in pots, and some seed and fertilizer packs. List available.

Give a year's subscription as an associate member of the Royal Shakespeare Company, which will cost £1.75 and will ensure that all leaflets about performances in the four theatres go to each associate, together with the privilege of getting two weeks priority booking at all theatres. Gift vouchers for tickets are £3, £4, £5, and £6, or there is a Fellis Topoleki calendar showing scenes from productions for £1.50 from the Arts Council Shop or the Alamy bookshop as well as from Stratford. Send a 7p stamp for the vouchers and add 30p to buy the calendar by post from RSC Theatre, Stratford on Avon, Warwick CV37 6BB.

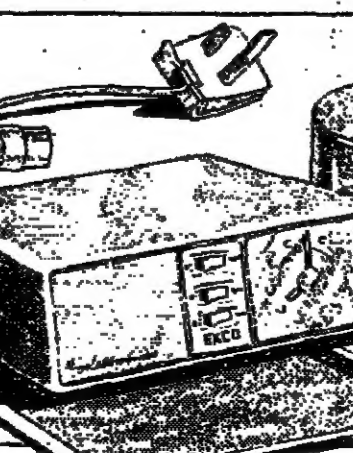
Bedlam's nightshirts and nightcaps seem to be endlessly popular, whereas I must confess I thought they would prove to be a craze that died out. The red, blue or brown striped sets seem to be the favourite of the set for the night. In pure colour, the nightshirt or £9.50 with an ankle-length shirt plus 45p postage. Do not forget to give chest plus when ordering and to ask about other patterns, including a pretty floral

nightshirt and mob cap. Personal shoppers can go to 44 Temple Street, Birmingham; 51 Gloucester Road, Bristol; 28 Bedford Place, Southampton; Bedding Centre in Lower Follet, Gloucester; and at any of the Aronica branches where you will also find a mass of duvets, covers and do-it-yourself duvets. Mail order is done from the head office address at 114 Kensington Church Street, London, W8, rather nearer the northern end. Bedlam is also first class for beds, especially unusual beds, of which prices these days are really rather terrifying.



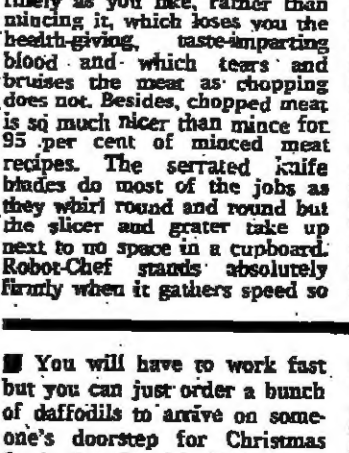
Above: Pifco. Right: Ekco Hostess.

Hundreds of readers either bought or gave Sidkit (this page earlier this year) to motorists, typists, people with bad backs or just because Sidkit, the padded back-board, made many of life's occupations more comfortable. Since then readers have told me that Sidkit is an ideal bed board and that they have ordered extras. They are good for sitting up in bed and make all the difference to reading or working in bed. They are good to lie on, eliminating many backaches. They are in beige, tan or black and measure 18 by 10 inches by about 11 inches

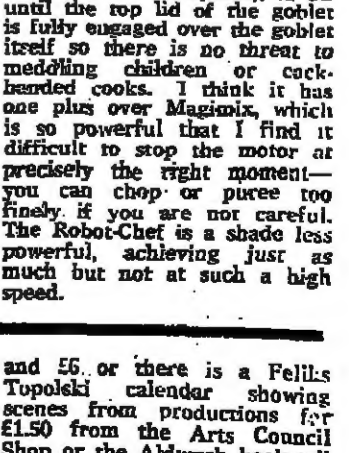


I am about the only person I know who does not want or even like early-morning tea. When I waken, orange juice is my staple and it keeps cold overnight in a vacuum flask. But I have been trying out the Ekco Hostess teakettle and I found it a luxury that could rapidly become an essential. The little round kettle and teapot nest behind a clock and light-work nicely independently. I'm happy to say. The pot and kettle are of stainless steel, and the kettle is easily filled through a top hole before the sealing lid, which is a neat bar of plastic, goes on to make it a water-tight fit. A tube joins the two spouts to

your telephone directory or ask directory inquiries since they are opening all the time. My second teakettle is also at Argos, a really well-designed one from Pifco that looks like two short, cylindrical towers on either side of the upright column with the control buttons. Independent light and stainless steel again, very good-looking and discounted at Argos from £19.50 to £35.95. If you have no Argos catalogue, it is time you did but only if you have some money left as you will be tempted by a lot. Get the full coloured catalogue from all Argos branches. For the other stockists, contact Ekco Heating Appliances, Drury Lane, Hastings, East Sussex, or Pifco, Princess Street, Manchester.



Make sure there is no drip, no possible chance of spillage and you have your tea ready by the time the alarm rings. The principle is not new but the design is good and the whole thing essentially compact with better looks than those I have known in the past, apart from the larger but very smart Russell Hobbs teakettle. The recommended price is a nice frightening at £51.75 but you will find it a great deal cheaper than that at Curry's and some other discounting electricians. My favourite price is at Argos, where it costs a mere £38.95 and there are Argos branches all over Britain now so look at



Minibooks are nice little stocking fillers or extra gifts to lay by the places of guests. Masses of little brown books, just 51 by 4 inches, are at Babinat, health food and other shops, distributed by Hunkydory Designs. Called the Little Brown Bread/Egg/Rice books, besides the Little Brown Book of Greens, they are paperbacks with stiffish brown card covers, and they contain simple, healthy recipes all in brown ink script on white background, rather attractive and appealing to look at as well as to feel. Little gems at 15p.

The History of Little Fanny is another adorable book. A facsimile is on sale at the Museum of London shop. The original was one of a series of little toy books with costumes dating from around 1850. Text and pictures are in a slipcase, the cut-outs delicately coloured to show little Fanny in different dresses and costumes. It costs 95p (plus 15p p.p. if you cannot make it to the museum). It really is charming. Incidentally, there will be a children's lecture on December 29 at 2.30 and on December 30 at 2.30 and on December 31 at 2.30. It will be on children's books. From *Chapbook* to *Puffin* and there will afterwards be a chance to see many things familiar to Victorian children

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